

September 28, 1992 LB 11

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, and we've cut it back for next year and so what they build their budget on for this year, they would receive in future years, all communities will get one-third less.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. Okay, thank you, Senator Moore. I think this clears up some of the things that I was concerned about because I didn't think we should take away more from the small villages than we would from the larger cities. And so I'm real happy to hear that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think once again we see what our constituents refer to as, what the state giveth, the state taketh away. We go home into our districts on a continual basis, we pass the buck to the feds, saying, gee whiz, the feds gave us these dollars, now they're taking them away, even though we're good managers and we really control our budgets very carefully and so it's all the federal government's fault. In the short period of time that I've been in this body, I have been asked on a continuous basis to support issues that are going to reduce our reliance on the local real property tax. I have tried in a consistent manner to support those issues based on the fact that our real property taxes are so exorbitantly high that many sectors of our society are about to be taxed out of their property. Now I understand that these federal revenue sharing funds that we all used years ago and many people came to depend upon are discretionary. But I also realize there are budgets that have been set. There are plans that have been made. In the situation of one of the major communities in my district, my city council has depended upon these dollars at this point for the subsidization of bonds on our new public library. I don't have any doubt that they can find the dollars somewhere. I think they can and I think that will come at the expense of the real property owner, and I don't want to see that happen. I'm willing to go in and look at this program in January, come back and look at...if indeed, at that time we can't find ways to cut within our portion of the total budget, then let's look at it again. But I just can't, in my heart, at this point take away what we have giveth. And I would strongly ask you and strongly ask you, Senator Moore, who also supports this philosophy, that we should not do this.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator