

September 28, 1992 LB 11

certainly myself, was when we started talking about, in committee after the hearing the next day, talking about all the difficult decisions that the body is being asked to make. Certainly, we have been asked to make a very difficult decision on...decision coming up on ADC. Certainly, we're going to make some very serious decisions on other aspects that affect people, that affect people and Nebraskans across the state. One of the things that we have kept exempt, if you wish, is state aid. We have not stricken, at least at this time, state aid to education. We have not gone into general state aid formulas, so the counties and municipalities, those that are within the budget process will not be hurt. But the one thing that struck a chord in me was if we're going to do some of the things that are on our list to do, that are very painful for some of us to do, this is one that is equally painful but should be on the list. This is one where we're also saying we're not cutting the entire program. We're not saying that as of this time, this moment, the monies will be taken away. We're saying you get this fiscal year and next year because of the painful situation the state finds itself in, whether it's because of a revenue shortfall or a spending surplus, whichever the reason you want to call it, everything should be on the table and everybody in the state should have some sense of feeling towards sacrificing to meet the goals of the state by the Constitution requirements. Cities and counties are no different than people on ADC, than people on other programs. What we're saying in this particular bill was not that the whole program is not...is not necessarily set up the way it should be, that there's some accountability problems. Sure, those things are there and can be worked out and will be worked out. But we are saying that of the \$4.5 million, that's divided per capita, so that some communities get \$28, some get \$300,000, or \$174,000, dependent upon the population, that there should be some indication that we'll take...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that money and download that just a little bit. And may I remind senators that if for some reason the situation improved itself, there would be then, I'm sure, an attempt in January to take away that 1.5. It isn't anything that actually takes place this fiscal year. And so, as we begin making decisions and as we begin looking at things that will be coming up on the agenda, we need to be asking ourselves, is this something that is...that we can...is this not something that we