

September 28, 1992 LB 11

particular proposal into a translation into a burden on the property taxpayers once again. So I rise in opposition to the advancement of reduction of even one-third of the MIRF funds.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. Senator Landis, followed by Senators Wesely, Byars, Hillman and Hefner.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President. I probably share with everyone else the same dilemma. In the event a package does not go forward, we're all in trouble. The first one that breaks the bank starts that run, I realize that. On the other hand, I think there are some real downsides in cutting MIRF back, not the least of which is that budgets have been contemplated in which these sums of money have been relied upon. I believe the City of Omaha, for example, has already structured its budget for the upcoming year and this would require a significant cut back for them. I do know that in the City of Lincoln the projects that we've used would be, I think, fair classifications to call them infrastructure. A significant change occurred in the Belmont Recreation Center, which is in my district. It's an area of town that I don't think has had a great deal of attention to it and with these additional resources there's been able to be a considerable investment in a community that has felt long ignored in the City of Lincoln and I think rightfully so. We have made adjustments because of federal demands in the Disabilities Act, the American Disabilities Act. We've done wheelchair lifts for Star Tran. We've made ADA improvements on a number of our facilities. We've expanded library facilities, Easterday Recreation Center for kids usage and we've had sight cleanup for problems of environmental difficulties. We've had storm sewer improvements and, for that reason, I've found that the kinds of things that MIRF has been used in my hometown are such that they occupy a very special place. They don't have sometimes the budgetary clout that some services do but they are long-term investments in the infrastructure of a city. And I would have to say that at this moment I am going to side with the cities. I, too, have to see the whole package go forward and want to be helpful. I'm sorry if this creates the run on the bank situation but I'm more comfortable with the Governor's package as it was introduced than I am this particular approach taken by the Appropriations Committee.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely. Senator Byars.