

September 28, 1992 LB 11

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Madam President. You know it is very difficult, and I hear what Senator Moore is saying, I hear what Senator Bernard-Stevens is saying. I particularly noted, and I think very eloquently put, the message that Senator Wehrbein gave to us relative to those cuts that have been put on the back burner, so to speak, that affect people, and I certainly am keeping all of those situations in my mind in my opposition to this, to LB 11 advancing. I did want to make a point, and I visited with Senator Moore about that. He corrected me somewhat in my thinking, the question, the point had been made that none of these dollars actually had been expended at this point, so what the state had given, the state hadn't taken away. This is not entirely the case. The City of Omaha, and after my phone rang all weekend criticizing Senator Chizek for trying to take away Curtis, I wasn't sure I'd stand up to help an Omaha senator today, but the City of Omaha has budgeted \$600,000 that took effect January 1st. Senator Moore assures me they will receive those funds, that they are not in jeopardy. I have no reason not to trust what he is telling me, but we are still looking at where we are looking at every other cut, basically, as being a percentage point, a point and a half, one point eight, point eight-tenths of one percent. Here we are talking about a third cut, a third cut that we are asking the cities to take. I am just not sure what the planning that has to take place on the part of those local subdivisions that this is fair, and I still feel that there are other areas that we can find in our budget that is not going to force their reliance on the real property tax. So I am going to continue my opposition to LB 11.

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

SENATOR HILLMAN: Madam Chairman, I think most of the Appropriations Committee members have put forth some information that was brought out during the commission hearings, and have done it very well. I would only like to add that we touched on the part of accountability, and how the different municipalities were using the money, the definition of infrastructure and what they could be spent on, and my first reaction was to say, well, there is no accountability, it can pretty well go as they want to except for the restrictions. But on more thought, I also realized that local communities needs are very diverse and very different, and to allow that kind of autonomy in spending the money I think probably does more help than being too terribly restrictive. I am sure most of us have contacted cities and