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villages in our districts, ask for an accounting at this point of how the money was spent. And I am going to say, for the most part, I think most of us are very pleased with how that money was spent. But if we also look at the fact that we are only asking for a reduction, not a complete elimination, I think if you go through those lists, you will find that some of them went to meet what I am going to call needs and some of them went to meet perhaps wants. They went to improve the quality of life in our cities and villages, which is I think great. The money is being very well spent, but at this point in time, I think, as a state, where we are looking at is a little difference between wants and needs, and in trying to make some reductions that will still meet those basic needs and the state's responsibility, we are going to have to look a little bit in the area of maybe wants. And the other thing that I think is going to happen, that if we do not look at some, perhaps, reductions on a local level and we look at deeper and deeper adjustments, as Senator Moore chooses to call them, many of those adjustments then are going to cause, in the outlying areas, in cities and villages, you are going to have your local constituents, also some of your regional people in different institutions, coming to counties, cities, and villages and asking for assistance. It has already been happening in some cases. It has in my community and, basically, the cities have said it's a state responsibility. They need to fund certain basic services, and they are right to say so. But in this instance, I think all we are asking the cities and villages to do is to look at a reduction, prioritizing, perhaps, how they will spend that MIRF money, and allow both of us to meet the needs that we need to keep those basic services going.

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

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, this week we'll make a lot of tough decisions. It is always tough to reduce the budget because it is just like taking candy away from a kid. Once you give them this money, then it is real hard to take it away, and this is what I am concerned about in this program, especially when we talk about the small towns and villages. As I have said on the floor many times, the 19th District, or the former 19th District, I should say, it is extreme northeast Nebraska, is the most rural district in the Legislature. We have a lot of small towns, and these small towns are struggling to keep going. We cannot or the villages think they cannot impose a city sales tax because it would lose