

September 30, 1992 LB 11

lovely sewers out there because of the other cuts we've made in some of these social service programs, we're going to have more people sleeping in them. We ought to make sure that the sewers out there are in great shape because more people are going to be hanging around them. More folks that we put out on the streets because we have delayed programs or discontinued funding are going to be closer to those very new sewers that we allowed to be built in the MIRF infrastructure system that we want to make sure is protected. Ladies and gentlemen, I would urge you to vote down Senator Schellpeper's amendment and advance LB 11 over to Final Reading.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I was tempted to call the question, and I do hope that you vote down the Schellpeper amendment. I know that this is a cut to the cities, but we are all in this together. To make...I think he made the remark that this cuts one-third of their budget. That's not true at all. It maybe cut one-third of their MIRF money, but, actually, in Grand Island, this is not...this is less than 1 percent. It is 1/10th of 1 percent of the budget. Sure, I admit, \$53,000 is not easy to come by somewhere, someplace. Some of the small towns, they are, as I agree with Mr...Senator Cudaback, probably in dire need of some infrastructure or something. I think too often, though, this is looked at as here is a gift, we will run out and spend it some one way or the other. We can't put everyone in the same classification. Grand Island happens to be building a new water park, the people approved it with a one-cent sales tax increase. That is where the bulk of this \$53,000 is going to go, and if I recall, it is a project of \$4 million. So I can't see that even my own city, I think that we are in here, these cuts, together, and I fully agree with Senator Warner, if we don't bite the bullet now, we are never going to bite the bullet. And I also agree with Senator Wesely. These cigarette tax monies should be directed more towards cancer research and for health reasons. I was even approached to would you consider increasing the cigarette tax three cents for this purpose. Of course, you know what my answer would be to that. I think that more of this cigarette tax money should be directed to the cancer research or the health. Some cities need it and some cities don't need it, and I think that we need to send the message to them, too, that they have to tighten their belt and things are not easier, not easier in the small towns. And I know that its \$50,000 to my town, but I think that