

California and wondering when the big one is going to come, and it is a worry. I mean, you say what's going to happen if this large expense comes? Do I sacrifice a bridge, do I sacrifice a road grader, do I sacrifice this, do I sacrifice what? The big one can come to any county. Who is it going to happen to next? What county in here? It can happen. I think Senator Kristensen is on target. I think the amendment is a good amendment, and like he says, it may...if it needs some changes, fine, but Senator Kristensen is on target. I introduced LB 444 this year. It would have went quite a few steps further than this bill here. It was a drastic change, like Senator Kristensen alluded to, and I knew that did not fly, but we have to start some place. I think the counties are ready for this. I think if you want to be responsible representatives of your counties, and I mean responsible, if you want to be responsible to those counties, I mean you look at the legislation and say, hey, this probably needs to be passed for the people I represent because you're putting these county boards in a spot that they don't need to be in. You heard the story of Senator Vrtiska. That could be your county next. Why do it? I think this is a right step forward. Let's go for it, and if it needs to be changed in the future, well, we can always change it, but I do support the Senator Kristensen amendment and hope you do also.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senator Beutler, Abboud, Hall, Lindsay, Chambers, Hartnett, Bromm, Wickersham and Maurstad.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just wanted to...I'm not going to take up a lot of time, but I just had to respond to a couple of the comments that were made because I think it's important somewhere along the line to get these comments in. First of all, these costs that were incurred, the sheet that I sent around, these are costs strictly for the defense and have nothing to do with the prosecution. You have to understand that the county had costs also in the prosecution where some places they had to hire another attorney. Some of those costs were assisted through the Crime Commission and they had some other funds and some of their own local funds, but this has, this whole issue is strictly with the defense of indigent people, so I wanted you to understand that that sheet I sent around only talks about the costs that was incurred by Richardson County for the defense in these cases. Secondly, I guess I need to make you...to make it very clear that this will not in any way assist, the way the bill is written, assist