

May 9, 1995

LB 418

one of the questions that I need to ask you, and I do support an increase, I don't know if this is the right increase or not but I do support what you're doing, but one of the questions that...that I guess it bothers me more than anything is...is whether you have had some discussion with some of the cities, counties and other entities who will be...who will be subject to paying the increases and what their response was?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Specific cities and counties or...?

SENATOR VRTISKA: No, in general. Any...have you talked to any of the county officials who are going to have to pay increased costs? We...you talked about this yourself and I'm sure we all recognize this is...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yeah.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...in somewhat...some way a mandate that we're sending down to the various entities of government and I just...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Sure.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...wondered what their response was, if you know.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I've had a couple of local officials contact me relative to this and questioning my position as to why I would...why I was going about this, but other than that there's...I've had...I've solicited some comments from some individuals and after the explanation I think they understand, after I've asked them to look at how much this really affects their...their bottom line after you get through the philosophical aspect of it being a mandate, they, I think for the most part, understand. But I, you know, I've gotten a couple of letters from county boards expressing opposition, but I think that the amendment that's before us now has been agreed to and compromised with the League of Municipalities and also the NACO and, as Senator Kristensen indicated in his comments, of course, they're not going to be in here leading the band for this situation but I believe that it's in a position now where they accept...they accept the bill, grudgingly.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I guess one of the things that I recognize and I think a lot of people do and just follow up on your comments that these small newspapers are really important