

February 23, 1996 LB 646, 1248

great deal of services that other counties are able to provide.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What kind of services?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, services like the maintenance of the road, the infrastructure of the county, the many things that county boards have to be charged a responsibility to maintain.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, if the counties know that these are their responsibilities, shouldn't they behave in a prudent manner in conducting all of their affairs?

SENATOR VRTISKA: I suggest that they have been.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why do they give the county attorney enough money to prosecute these death penalty cases and seek the death penalty?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, Senator Chambers, I appreciate...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you very much, Madam Chairman and members of the body. And I know Senator Vrtiska will probably smile as he hears what I have to say because I have spoken to him about this in private. This did come before the Government Committee this year, and I wouldn't want this discussion to pass without some, some comments from...in reference to a bill that passed last year, LB 646, which was called the County Revenue Assistance Act. And I would remind everyone on this floor that they did pass that piece of legislation, I did not vote for it. What I did do was offer an amendment at the time, I think I tried to amend it on Select File. I'm not sure if I had started on General File to try to amend it, but my amendment to the County Revenue Assistance Act was essentially the exact same approach that Senator Vrtiska is now taking this year with this bill. And it was to set up a separate fund and to use the Governor's Emergency Funds and to follow in with that criteria for counties that would need to have assistance and to, if you remember the discussion was on Richardson County when we were talking about LB 646 and how they needed the help and the assistance and I believe the appropriations amount, although Senator Wehrbein could probably correct me if need be on this,