

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...somewhat in the area of the fund that's set up by civil defense, who helps, right now helps communities who have flood damage and have other tornadoes or et cetera that happens to communities. There's a fund that provides for those things. And we set this up trying to some way follow that lead, and at the same time come up with a different definition when some of these other events...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...fall into place.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Vrtiska, your light is next.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I'll just continue by saying, again, that anyone that has any ideas that can help make this bill better than it is, is willing to...I'm willing to work with because I don't have all the answers. I just know that this is not a fund specifically for Richardson County obviously, but Richardson County, under the definition that we tried to set out, would be, in fact, entitled to apply for these funds. Now you, as I...as we put the bill together it was our expectation that the Risk Management, or the Claims Board and the Risk Manager together would make a determination if in fact it was a vi...it was a legitimate claim that they could deal with, and the Governor would have the final say so in dispensing the funds. Those safeguards we tried to build in. If there are other things we need to do, then certainly I'd be willing to do that because, as I said before, this is not a bill specifically for Richardson County. Anybody could use it who fell into the same troubles that they've had down there. You have to understand that I don't know of any...it was mentioned earlier, I don't know of any county that's ever experienced the devastation that they have down there. And the thing that I'd like to keep reminding everybody, that Richardson County board of commissioners have been very prudent in the way they spent their money. They had accumulated approximately, close to \$800,000 in inheritance tax money that they held back. And I have to tell you, in all honesty, if this had happened to a county such as mine, we would have probably had to go into bankruptcy because I don't know where we would have come up with the amount of money that it costs to run these trials. You'd hope that, that...I guess you live in hope that it doesn't happen to your county and therefore you're not going to be