

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Isn't that right?

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...I appreciate your comments because I think they are certain applicable and something I need to take into account when we try to make some amendments on this bill. And I'm willing to work with you or anybody else in order to clean this up to where it would in fact not allow those kinds of things to happen. That was not the purpose of bringing the bill, as you're well aware of.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I know.

SENATOR VRTISKA: The purpose was to try to help out a particular situation. You can't legislate money to a county, that's, you know, that's unconstitutional. I'm trying to use an avenue to help out a particular situation that will, in fact, meet the requirements of the way this bill is drafted. But as I'm hearing it, and I can't have any problem with that, there are some broad areas that need to be defined and narrowed down to where specific things will have to develop.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and my time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, I'm sorry, go ahead.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't mean to interrupt you. And, Senator Vrtiska, I know you're willing to work with people because you want to get the bill. But since you're the introducer, I just wanted to address the questions to you, not asking them to you as though I think you're not willing to make changes. Members of the Legislature, I know that Senator Vrtiska's amendment is going to be adopted, and after it is then I'm going to offer some amendments, and I'm also going to hand out a copy of the definition of disaster so you can see how many circumstances this bill opens the state to be responsible for providing funds under. It is too easy, it's too alluring to have people come in here, once they've gotten into a bind, and say, please help me, I'm in trouble. Now if it was a group of poor women and children who need to be fed, clothed and provided medical attention, then the hearts are as hard as stone. I watched and listened while we talked about so called welfare reform. I watched the fact that we cannot even get a bill out of the committee to raise the minimum wage by 25 cents, and then we