

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

SENATOR VRTISKA: No.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay. Now, relative to the next point, isn't there a process already in place where the county, in this case Richardson County, can do what you're trying to accomplish, what your intent is?

SENATOR VRTISKA: No, there is not. There are Civil Defense Funds, but those are for natural disasters that are...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I understand that. But couldn't you file a claim now with the state, have it go through the claims process, either be accepted or rejected by the committee that Chairman Abboud chairs, and then if that was not successful that couldn't be brought to the floor for discussion?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, you're absolutely right. The only difference in this and that is that that goes before the Claim Board, is either approved or rejected by the full body, as you indicated. But then there is a period of time lapse before any of those funds can be allocated. And what we...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...were trying to do is put an emergency clause so we could get this money to get them out of their problem immediately, before they get any...before it gets any worse. I guess that's the difference.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, so along with the intent of having the possibility to be able to have state assistance, you're trying to expedite the process also.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, because I'm trying to get in my mind just what you want to try to accomplish. I need to do that before I can decide whether I can be supportive of it.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well,...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I have some concerns with the way it is now because of the discussion that we've had. But, as I indicated to you before, I'm willing to continue to try to look at a way