

February 26, 1996 LB 1248

sincere. The reason I'm putting all those qualifications in, I don't want anybody to think in the future that just because I successfully added amendments to the bill, it's going to take away all my opposition, I am going to be this much of a cupcake and a pushover. But I will tell you now some of the concerns that I do have. I think the way the bill is drafted now where it talks about abnormal expenses of government incurred as a result of legal mandates would just about knock out what Senator Vrtiska is trying to do even now. I don't think he can show that some of the things he wants to use as a basis for establishing Richardson County's problem could qualify as resulting from a legal mandate imposed by the state. I don't think that can be shown. I don't believe any expense that will be discussed by Richardson County in presenting this claim can be shown to be abnormal. Any governmental activity that costs money is going to cost an amount, which if not limited by a specific appropriation. It is indeterminable. With the way this bill is drafted, that amount is not even limited by what is appropriated. Something can have occurred prior, which will result in expenses incurred by their coming due, which nobody could speculate successfully about in terms of the amount, but everybody without speculating would know that there is going to be a cost associated with it. So any expense that derives from any governmental activity cannot be deemed abnormal. It is a cost of doing business. If wise decisions are made, the cost is reasonable based on the standard you use before you start out. If unwise decisions are made, the cost is high, but in neither case is that expense abnormal. So are they saying that it is an abnormal type of expense, or an ordinary, routine expense which is greater than could be anticipated or the amount ordinarily spent for this particular pursuit?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that's not clear from the bill. Are essential services for which money can be obtained to keep the county, city or village able to provide, are those essential services every service that is required by law for these entities to provide, or do they include activity voluntarily undertaken by the county, city or village? Those are things that I think have got to be dealt with. I am going to turn on my light one more time, so that I can finish this up, and I will not offer any amendments at this point.