

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 19, 1999 LB 72

communities, and my area consists of smaller communities. And what I'm concerned about, if a special prosecutor has to be named, and say it does cost \$100,000 or so, that is quite a burden on a smaller community or county. And that's my only concern with this particular bill and my concern with mandates. If we are going to mandate that we have to do this, then I think we also should make sure that the money follows from the state coffers and not burden the local...the local community. So I would...I would offer some time to Senator Chambers, if he would...if he is listening and if he would answer my concerns on this particular subject.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Unfortunately, I was talking to Senator Beutler, and I don't know what the question is.

SENATOR ENGEL: Well, I realize that. My concern was with the mandate coming down to where we do have to name a special prosecutor. Like I said earlier, I am totally in favor of the bill, I don't mind calling it back. But if a special prosecutor has to be named, and like these situations don't only occur in Omaha and Lincoln, they do occur in smaller communities, and sometimes if a special prosecutor has to be named and the cost of that special prosecutor could be quite a bit...quite a sum of money, and that could be sometimes devastating even to the smaller communities. And my feelings are if we're going to mandate this happening, then we should also send the money with the mandate.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand the question, and this is the way I will answer it. The county that impanels the grand jury will pay the cost of the grand jury. The Legislature makes policy decisions, many of which require political subdivisions to do one thing or another. The Nebraska Supreme Court has said repeatedly that the purpose of political subdivisions is to carry out the will of the state. The state delegates authority and duties in responsibilities to them. So I don't say that the state should pay the cost of a special prosecutor. And I'll tell you this, Senator Engel, there are some prosecutors in some of those smaller towns...counties who want this bill because