

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

March 22, 1999 LB 142

versus their current budgets, there is room for the city to absorb the loss of revenues that would be represented by the bill as presented to you by the committee, as opposed to Senator Redfield's amendment, and, likewise, there's room for the county to absorb the loss in revenues that is now presented by her amendment. I will probably vote in favor of Senator Redfield's amendment. I don't think that we should necessarily thwart what local governmental subdivisions say that they are willing to do to adjust revenues between them, but I would extend to you a note of caution that, carried to some extreme, this will get rather complex and we will lose sight eventually of what we proposed as a rather simple, direct, clear and straightforward system. So it might not always be possible to stand up and say everybody's agreed and I think it's okay, because at some point in time we will have defeated an underlying purpose for the proposal that we brought to you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Further discussion on the Senator Redfield amendment? Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, earlier today I started talking about the rationale behind the division that we have, and Senator Wickersham talked about the simplicity, but I'm not sure that there is a virtue in simplicity if we've already acknowledged that we don't have the underlying issues of division taken care of and...and amounts and appropriateness of amounts. And so, to me, this is just another indication that we...we have some very serious issues to deal with in terms of why we're giving additional monies to...especially to counties, and that the reason that we're doing that is that they fund with those additional monies a lot of the things that, in the case of Douglas County and the city of Omaha, the city of Omaha is funding, through...through the city, and that's why they want a special situation. But I think we're going to find that in other instances and I think that we need to have some assurance that counties, because they're getting this windfall of money, are actually going to use it to cover the cost of the other subdivisions that are not included...are no longer included in...in revenues from...from the automobile taxes. And so that is something that I will be doing before this bill gets to Select File, is looking at a way that we can assure that counties will be using the funds for