

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

May 11, 1999

LB 571

the amount of constitutional amendments that were, in fact, placed on the ballot and, in fact, the counties were charged with paying for it, so that's the only point I wanted to make.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And that has been the tradition. This would be new public policy. We would be going in a different direction if we decide to do this because, traditionally, they have picked up the bill.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Oh, I know, I understand that, and I guess that's...that's what legislation is all about. (Laughing) Thank you for your time, Senator Schimek, and with that, I'll return my time back to the Chair.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Further discussion, Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Thank you, Mr. President. I just...members of the body, I wanted to explain my "no" vote on the original bill, and I think Senator Schimek hit it right on the head. It may be that I am a bit of a cheapskate but when I see a fiscal note of more than half a million dollars it does raise my interest. And if you would look at the handout, the AM1537 to LB 571, it points out some fairly interesting discrepancy in what counties are claiming their costs were for placing amendments on the ballot. If you look at Adams County, the very first one, they claim over \$16,000 out of total election costs of \$32,000, so they are claiming that it cost them over 50 percent of their election costs for these constitutional amendments. If you go down to Buffalo County, they are claiming \$11,000 out of \$44,000, which, by my math, is about 25 percent. If you keep going down the list, Garden County only claimed \$156 total out of \$4,751.89. And what this bill basically would do and what I couldn't figure out is that, if the counties can't even figure out what the cost is for placing these constitutional provisions on the ballot, how can they expect the state to reimburse them for costs they can't even figure out for themselves? And so that was the reason why I did oppose this in the committee and that's why I also will not be able to support this particular amendment. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Quandahl. For