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LB 1217

SENATOR JENSEN: As it is before you, it's \$2 million.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay. Okay. I saw and many of you saw a press release or at least in the paper about a deal that our Lieutenant Governor Maurstad made with the federal government resulting in \$8 to \$9 million not being fined against the state of Nebraska regarding child support enforcement. Now just to the average taxpayer, they see this, one day they see \$8 million worth of vetoes and then darn near the same edition they see, hurray, we got \$9 million extra that we didn't know we had. Now, can you explain to us where that \$8 or \$9 million is going to be spent...

SENATOR JENSEN: Well,...

SENATOR HILGERT: ...and does that free up general revenues that we could spend for these much needed line-item overrides?

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, first of all, if Senator Maur...or, Senator, Lieutenant Governor Maurstad had not been successful, we would have been tagged with a...an \$8 or a \$9 million penalty for the year 2001. And I was very pleased to hear the report that he was able to talk with Judge Ross and convince them that Nebraska has made some progress, and so hopefully we will not be hit with that...that large a penalty. But that was a penalty that would have been filed and would have taken \$9 million out of the child support system. Of course, here we're talking about providers and mental health providers.

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, just it seems that from the press release and from the news media it seemed like...so really we reduced a penalty that had yet to be levied.

SENATOR JENSEN: That is correct.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, part of it was already levied; more was going to be levied.

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, the part that was going to be levied, did we take any measures to try to augment that lost revenue