

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

April 3, 2000

LB 142, 1217

heard the closing. The question before the body is the motion to override this portion of the veto. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 1514.)
41 ayes, 2 nays on the override.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: This portion of the bill is overridden.
Next item. The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Janssen has the next motion.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen, you're recognized to open
on your motion to override.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This amendment would...would restore the \$400,000 to the Metro Area Transit. You remember last year in LB 142, was passed by the Legislature, it restructured the taxation of the motor vehicle and...taxes and resulted in the removal of funding for the Metro Area Transit of \$475,000. Metro Area Transit is a political subdivision and it was not included in the reformulation of taxes that went to counties, cities and schools. MAT has consistently held the line on their spending better than any other political subdivision in Nebraska for the last 16 years. I passed out some information if you'd like to take a look at that. You can draw your conclusions from that. Rural transit authorities are fully funded by the state receiving State Highway Trust Fund monies; Lincoln and Omaha are not. Why would I, you know, why would I carry this for Lincoln and Omaha? I'll tell you why. You know, I have a lot of people that go to Omaha and they use that, they use the buses, they use that authority and that's paid for by...by the city of Omaha, or it will be now, and Lincoln. It's not a huge amount of money. If this funding is not replaced in LB 1217, Metropolitan Transit Authority will have to decrease its services substantially, or raise their property tax levy quite a bit in order to provide the services that they have provided over the last few years. And this...it's imperative to understand that this appropriation request is replacement funding. It's not new spending. We talk about property tax relief, we think of the rural areas. Let me tell you, folks, our urban friends have...they have higher...have high property taxes also. And if you're in the