

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

January 31, 2003 LB 357

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. If I could follow up with Senator Beutler, and, Senator Beutler, I'll give you a chance to ask more questions if you would wish. One of the things I should first tell you is that this money that is coming in does not have a time line attached to it. So there is the expectation that this money will be spent over a period of time. And, again, to refresh everybody's memory, we are...we were originally anticipating \$23 million total. That was our best estimate. We don't know right now if that is the figure, but I believe by the end of the session we will know what that figure is. And I would also say that I think that we would probably want to hold these bills, I mean maybe move them across to Final Reading and leave them there until we have done the budget bill, and by that time I would fully expect that the federal government would have acted. And, in addition, I must point out that there will be a strong resolve on the part of all 50 states to resist a huge mandate like this in the times of budget crisis that we're all going through, and we will not be the first state that the federal government goes after. It will be a California or a New York State or some big state like that. But would you like to follow up in any way with what I just indicated?

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah, Senator, if I could just ask more questions, that would help me somewhat. But you indicate that \$23 million is what was expected to come to Nebraska, at least, understanding you don't know for sure yet.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So I assume that means that we're expecting to make, in order to meet these mandated requirements, \$23 million worth of expenditures, eventually. Is that more or less correct?