

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

February 3, 2003 LB 385

then. If you're going to do that, why not scrap the whole bill, the whole shooting match? There's a lot of dollars we could save there. But, Senator Raikes, you were here and you know darn good and well that that bill would have not a...would not have passed if we did not have this 30 percent going out to the rest of the state. Am I...do you...am I on track here? You think that bill would have passed?

SENATOR RAIKES: No, I don't, and I didn't vote for it even with the 30 percent. But the point is, that project has already begun. To back away from that project at this point is to say we made an agreement, you have proceeded in good faith on that agreement, now we're pulling away. The 30 percent is a different deal. There have been no grants awarded; there has been no project started. So at least at this point we can still pull away from that one without leaving somebody in the lurch, so to speak.

SENATOR JANSSEN: The reason that there is no money in there is because of the fact that there hasn't...we haven't had anyone apply and it's going very slow. Once the...once the center...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute, Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...once the center gets started, then you're going to see, in the year 2008, there will be right at a million dollars a year going in there. So I think we've made a commitment. If we made the wrong choice in '99, so be it, but we've made a commitment to the rest of the state and I think we should live up to that commitment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, now I'm with Senator Janssen. You know, there are two kinds of obligations that we should talk about here. One is a legal obligation, and that's the obligation that Senator Raikes is talking about, the obligation we've already made to the Omaha Convention Center. And the other obligation is the moral obligation that we made to one another in here a couple of years ago when we made this deal, and that, in my opinion, is more