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FLOOR DEBATE

February 3, 2003 LB 385

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I too rise in opposition to the amendment before us. As I have said before, it was the intent of the Legislature that when we approved that convention center to include a 30 percent kickback from the funds that were generated by that convention center to the rest of the state, other than the metropolitan area. That does mean Lincoln. It does mean Grand Island. It does mean Kearney. It does mean South Sioux City. You have to make an application for one of these grants. It has to be approved by the DED. If there are available funds there for the \$500,000 and you make your case to the DED and they approve it, yes, then you'll get your grant. But there are steps you have to go through to do this, and when it says in the statute it was the intent of the Legislature to do that, are we going to come back now and say, no, we're going to leave all the money, the 80 percent...the 30 percent is going to come back in and bail us out of the shortfall we're in? Well, at the present time, I don't think 150-some thousand dollars is going to bail us out of much trouble right at the present time. When we start to see funds that are coming in at a greater amount when the convention center gets going, hopefully we've turned our economy around by that time. And we wouldn't be having this discussion now if we weren't in the economic times we're in. And I know we have to look under every rock, but this is a commitment that I believe the people that we represent...each one of us represents 36,000 people or whatever it is, and they're not all in Omaha, they're not all in Lincoln, they're from throughout the whole state. This isn't...this won't be a big rush of money coming in to bail us out of our financial problems. It's something that is going to grow over time. What goes around comes around. A hundred and fifty thousand dollars right now, Senator Raikes, isn't going to help us out of this mess we're in. Over time, it's going to amount to some dollars. By that time, I hope this country and this state is out of the problem we're in right now. With that, I urge you to oppose the Raikes amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. The amendment