

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

April 10, 2003 LB 367

the Schrock amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the Legislature. I just received from the committee counsel of the Natural Resources Committee that this amount of money, the \$300,000, is less than one-half of the interest generated from July 1, 2002 to February 1 of 2003. So it's, this \$300,000 would be less than half of the interest generated from this fund from July of last year to February of this year. So the money is being invested wisely and we are getting interest from that underground leaking storage tank fund right now. So I don't think it's going to jeopardize the fund that much, certainly not as much as we did when we transferred that huge amount of money last year. So I...that's why I don't have a problem with Senator Chambers' bill, and I guess we have all said that this is a worthwhile project, and it is. If we can't do that...I don't care if it was in Omaha or if it was in Chadron, Norfolk, or wherever it's at, kids are kids, and if they are being harmed by something that we can do something about, why I think it's worth every dollar that we can spend there. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. There are no further lights on. Senator Schrock, did you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers and Senator Preister have spoken to the need. I'm not one that has firsthand knowledge of the need, but I do know there is a lead problem in Omaha. And if there is a funding gap...and these are extraordinary times. Ordinarily, Senator Bromm, I would say let Senator Wehrbein take care of this. This should be a General Fund obligation, but Senator Wehrbein is getting shorter everyday with everything we're piling on top of him, and so we don't need to pile something else on top of him. And there is \$24 million here. It is being replenished at the rate of \$11 million a year. There is a real need for cleaning up our underground storage tanks. It's a federal program, something we need to address, and we are addressing. I think it's probably appropriate because this is an environmental issue. The LUST fund is designed to clean up environmental problems and lead has been a problem in our