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FLOOR DEBATE

April 22, 2003      LB 759

it was adopted into our committee recommendations. Just to give you a general idea, the two cities that I represent, one in whole and one in almost all of it, and I don't have Bellevue's numbers, but LaVista received \$26,957.89 in Fiscal Year '01-02, and Papillion received \$37,705.10, to just get a feel for how that might affect what will go into your legislative district, because that probably, if you add that together, that's probably what the cities in your districts, if it were equal across the state, would lose. And again, this has been voted on by the Appropriations Committee. It's part of the mainline budget bill. An adjustment was made for one city so that they wouldn't have to send a letter on their bonds, and that's basically where it's at and I put my light on for that purpose, just to clarify. And I will get this passed out to you. This is the one-pager I had for the hearing, just so you have that for your information. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this fund, the Municipal Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund, is known by the acronym MIRF, M-I-R-F. Makes me think of a few years ago a criminal named Murph the Surf, M-u-r-p-h. Well, there's kind of a parallel here in that something is being taken from one and placed someplace else, and it ought not to be done. Not only did Senator Thompson's referring to this fund as MIRF make me think of that, Senator Wehrbein mentioned that Omaha is involved in this too, which makes it a tale of two cities. As you all know, Charles Dickens wrote a novel called A Tale of Two Cities. A man was in the dock on trial for his life and his head was going to be cut off. Another man noted a remarkable resemblance between himself and the prisoner. Well, there were romantic complications, but the man who noticed the resemblance decided that he would take the place of the prisoner and have his head cut off instead. So whose head was I trying to cut off? Lincoln's it may seem, but I didn't know Lincoln was the one who had relied on this. It appears that instead of Omaha taking the place of Lincoln, Omaha's head may be lopped off too. What all of the discussion has shown me thus far is that not everything is on the table, and that's what I want to establish. We speak in shorthand, we