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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 285A

agreed to send \$300,000 into Omaha to help with a lead abatement program to fill a gap from the point where they had some money to the point where they would receive some money. And I think in this set of circumstances where an emergency can be shown to exist, where it may grow increasingly severe and infest more areas than is currently the case, this amount of money is well spent. Two hundred fifty thousand dollars is not a lot of money. It is not a lot of money to be spent for this purpose, and if we do it now, based on what "Deacon" Jones told us, more good can be done at this point than if we put it off. So I support this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I also rise in support of the amendment. Although we don't have a heavy infestation of grasshoppers in our area, we did have enough that they did destroy some of my flowers and garden last year, but I realize what a crisis this is for those farmers and ranchers that are involved. I have a question for Senator Jones.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Yes.

SENATOR STUHR: You mentioned something about \$125,000. Was that something that was in the Department of Agriculture, or could you explain?

SENATOR JONES: I don't know if you remember or not, but when we had the special session in July last year, well, we put \$121,000 over to the Department of Agriculture for this purpose. But by the time we got it there, well, nobody wanted to spray because the hoppers was too big and the crops was gone, and they didn't want to waste the money doing it. So that money has been staying there ever since. So that's what we're using off of right now. But that's not going to go around because each one of us paid \$1.25 an acre. And you do that, \$1.25 an acre, and that will only cover 100,000 acres. We've got way more than that already blocked off, so then anybody that don't come under