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February 25, 2005 LB 503

areas where they may have this can come here and eat, but your children cannot eat here. I have fought against things that the Omaha Public School System has sought to get from this Legislature, so if this had been initiated by them, I know what my vote would have been, with several exclamation points after it. My mind is open, but right now my inclination is to vote no, even though Omaha did not originate it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Erdman, on the Bourne amendment to LB 503.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of Legislature. I talked to Senator Bourne and I told him I wasn't going to speak on his amendment. I would like to, in turn, direct the body's attention to maybe the year 2015. What happens in that year is that, if Medicaid and TEEOSA continue to grow at the rate that they're at, we can't generate enough revenue to pay for those two programs' increases. So if you look at the modeling that's been done based on current growth for Medicaid and for state aid to schools, and you compare it to the agency spending, when you get to the year 2015, when we begin that discussion on that budget, whoever is fortunate enough to be here, you'll have to begin to cut state agencies to pay for those two programs. So when we start thinking about these decisions, whether it's Senator Bourne's amendment or others. I like to think that we have an opportunity as a body these next couple years to try to resolve some problems, to try to think ahead and try to present this state in a way to be successful. I think some of these discussions are well within it, but they definitely have an impact long term. If you add \$15 million to the base, it then moves that line from 2015 up earlier. So now we're not only talking about having that decision at that point, where we already know we have Medicaid growing at an astronomical rate for the state to afford, and how do we deal with those issues, but we also look at state aid as an important part of our state's process now, and how do we afford to do that if we continually add to the base through this So whether you're at...whether you're in favor of process? doing this or not and for whatever reason, I would like to have us think a little bit in the future. I do have that