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FLOOR DEBATE

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votes in Lincoln and 1,500 votes in Omaha, I do see...I do see kind of a concession there. The requirement for the remonstrance came down. Lincoln and Omaha have different needs than the rest of the state. For that reason, I'm supportive of Senator Beutler's efforts. I return the balance of my time to the Chair.

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

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is the camel. When the bill was brought by Senator Flood, and after work had been done on it, it was clear that the purpose was to help smaller communities combine with other entities to do some things that would be of mutual benefit. I am not going to agree to let Omaha go up to \$25 million. There should be the mandated vote for a metropolitan class city. And if this amendment is adopted, I'm going to try to get Omaha out of the bill. And if Omaha is not, I'm going to fight the bill. The form that Senator Beutler is trying to put it in will be all right for Lincoln. If the Lincoln senators don't mind their constituents ponying up this amount of money, that's for them to decide. I live in Omaha. The amounts of money that Omaha has at its disposal would be considered astronomical compared to these little towns. In the farming sector, people are familiar with the term "economies of scale." There are things which large farm operations can do which small ones cannot. So you're not able to say, we will take this that's being done by the large operations and reduce it proportionately so that we get down to the family farm-size operation and all of the factors remain unchanged; we only have a smaller version of this big one. When you're talking about little towns and you mention dollar amounts, that is one thing, because you're taking into consideration the actual amount of money that is reasonable. When you then move up to the larger cities, especially Omaha, it's not going to work, from my point of view, to say that proportionately this is the amount that Omaha should be able to get involved with compared to the amount the smaller cities, towns, and whatnot may get involved with when you compare that to a percentage of whatever the total amount of value they have at their disposal. The amendment that I'm drafting now is to take the metropolitan class city out of Senator Beutler's