

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2005 LB 161

district or the assessment district to maintain, protect, and remove their own trees, then?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator, if they want...if they want to handle the trees in their neighborhood in a manner, and to support them in a manner that the city is not able to do with the small amount of general funds that it can allocate to that work, then the idea is that they ought to have the ability to do that, the option to do that. Our city budget...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: But at the same time,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...our city budget for trees is not very large. And...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...any time there are significant budget problems, it's always the Parks Department and the peripheral kinds of things that are hit the hardest. So this is seen as a means whereby certain neighborhoods might want to do more.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Do we have any idea of what part of the budget is for planting and what part of the budget is for all the rest of it, the maintenance and the removal and so forth?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I think we do. I think the budget for actually dealing with trees in the city of Lincoln is set in a dollar-specific amount.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I guess what I'm getting at, Senator Beutler, is, wouldn't it be fairer to ask everybody to plant their own trees but then have the city maintain everybody's trees, and not having the city planting any trees at all...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...anymore?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Did you say "planning" or "planting"? I'm sorry, I didn't...