TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 5, 2005

LB 425

Senator Foley come in with a proposal and we've instituted that. Now what happens if those dollars are not there in the future? Yes, they're going to come back to this Legislature, I won't be at that time, to say then can we fund these with General Funds? I don't know whether we can or whether we can't. I do know that certainly at the end of last year when we met at Platte River State Park I said we shouldn't have any more new programs or be very, very careful when you enter into a new program. But Senator Howard's, we did that one. Do we do this one? Perhaps. Also, as you look on the agenda on LB 425 that's before us, there are others that are asking for more dollars, and every year as we approach appropriations time there are those that ask for more dollars. One of those I have committed that, yes, I will try to increase more dollars for that particular program. So this is not something that all of a sudden this is bad, Senator Foley's bill is bad, because he's asking for dollars. And if we're going to take that approach that that's bad, let's not take any additions to our appropriations program because, same thing, they work long and they worked hard and they've...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...come up with a...what they thought was the proper funding. Then we shouldn't take any of these extra items that are there. Senator Byars has ones on DD. I told him I support that, to increase that funding. There are some that would increase funding to the cities and others. But if we get back to where I was at the symposium, we shouldn't do that. shouldn't go in any new programs. I supported Senator Foley's bill because I think that it is proven, but, again, we have to decide if that's what we want to do, and I hope you'll all search your soul on that. I think any time that we can improve people's lives, if we can improve our situation and families, that we should do that. With that, I hope you will all think a little bit about where we go from here and the process that we And if you look at the out years, we do have some problems, ...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.