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FLOOR DEBATE

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100 percent. We can't do it all this year, and we made a conscious effort that, as a committee, to not open the floodgates and restore everything. We had to prioritize. So I don't know what kind of deals got cut. I wasn't a party to the deals. I was just the person carrying the bill. The bill passed, but only for two years. Now Senator Bourne, in what I just told him was a real show of male bravado, said, I could stop that bill and I'd have stopped that bill. Well, you know, let's go back two years or three years or whenever that was, and we can talk about it. But that isn't what...that isn't...we don't have that to relive here today. All we have are the facts. The fact is it was suspended for two years, it's been put back. The cities would like to have more money come back in their aid side of the program. That's a decision, and it gets back to the whole issue of taking your thumb out of the dike. I just got an e-mail from a county commissioner in Sarpy County who wants...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...county aid restored. Well, once we start doing that, it's going to be tough. And I have great sympathy for the cities. They do great things with their MIRF money. But we can't afford everything, and I'm going to back...and I in the committee, we had a vote on this. I supported putting more aid in, with Senator Beutler. There were three votes. It went 6-3 against it in committee. And now I stand on "Team Appropriations," I guess. If I wanted to be a weasel, I'd come out and say, well, I didn't get my way in committee, and therefore we should restore this money. But we can't do everything. I think you should honor the views of the Appropriations Committee on this.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Further discussion on the Mines amendment, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'm trying to recall some of these discussions, along with others who were here at the time. Looking at the handout by Senator Pederson, which I find very useful, it looks to me like...and I did check on the '03-04 fiscal year. The number was