

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

\$11,777,193. So, in effect, there are six years where that amount of funding the base is all the same. So you would have had to go back to the 2001-02, the biennium that included that year, before you got the higher numbers that Senator Kruse pointed out. And Senator Thompson just pointed out, these were times when we simply had to make reductions. We did not have the money. Senator Bourne referred to the MIRF needs of the city of Lincoln, and I think he's correct on that. But my understanding is that the city of Lincoln retained some additional MIRF funding at the expense of their portion of the aid to cities. So this was not additional money for the city of Lincoln. This was simply accommodating their need for that funding to come from that particular source rather than aid to cities. So again, I am not seeing where there is a violation of a deal. There has been...or there would have been or will have been, if this plan is followed, a constant base for six years except, as Senator Redfield pointed out, we have had a significant expansion of the sales tax base during that period so, in fact, this constant base is an understatement of the amount of money available to cities. So my recollection and read of the information presented, I think it's been a good discussion, is that there hasn't been a violation of the deal, that in fact the reduction and restoration is accommodated with the \$2,480,000 reduction in aid to cities and added back to MIRF. So I respectfully oppose this amendment and would support what the Appropriations Committee has recommended in this connection. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I wanted to try to close the loop on my trouble-laden speech of about 15 minutes ago. I don't know if I can do that. It's coincidence that this type of thing is coming up now. You know, I don't think so. Senator Bourne, in no uncertain terms, has pointed out that that's what politicians do. They beat and thump their chests and talk about how they didn't raise taxes. But, look, I'm not making statements about who should be elected where and when. What I'm talking about is genuine behavior as opposed to disingenuous behavior, mismanagement as opposed to good management. That's what I'm