

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

May 5, 2005

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should continue to support that, and I urge the no vote on AM1431. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Redfield, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Raikes introduced an amendment earlier today and he talked about the fact that we had a choice whether to pay special ed funding up-front or to pay it again later. And I would tell you that often I'm an idealist, but underneath that ideal surface, there is a core of pragmatism in us...in me, and I will tell you that if, in fact, we don't continue to fund this, we will find that these children are coming to our public libraries to check out the books. So we are going to pay for the books, one way or another, and it's a matter of whether we want Senator Mines to come back with another amendment to try to give the cities more money so that they can purchase the books for their libraries, or whether we want to go ahead and take care of it here. Education is a state responsibility according to our constitution. I believe that books are important. Learning is important, and I think that it serves the public purpose. As our children are better educated, they will perform better in our society and, in fact, not be so dependent upon the services that we are finding ourselves hard pressed to provide under the fiscal climate. So I think that books are a good thing. I want to see them in the hands of every child. I don't care where they go to school. I want to make sure they learn, and I want to make sure that they succeed, and I would like for them to stay in Nebraska and be productive citizens and contribute to our economy. If this helps that be achieved, I think we should keep it. Thank you.

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

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I believe in a clear line of demarcation between the church and the state, between religion and the state. This kind of thing blurs that line. Senator Redfield is probably unaware of this, but there was a quarter of a billion dollar bond issue in Omaha