May 5, 2005   LB 425

county jail reimbursement assistance shall not exceed
$3,910,000. It does not say that they are to pay that amount of
money. It just says it "shall not exceed." So I know that
Senator Stuthman is somewhat aware of that because his initial
proposal was in excess of this $3,910,000; but it was modified
to reduce to that particular figure. But it doesn't say that
the Legislature shall pay that sum of money. It says it "shall
not exceed" that amount of money, and I think that's the
operative word. Senator Chambers introduced me to this thing
the other day when we were talking about how much legislators
are to be paid, and we checked the statute to see. It didn't
say we get $12,000; it says "not to exceed $12,000." So I think
as a last resort let's look at the statute here and see what the
real obligation is. We've been throwing around the terms, the
state is obligated, the state owes, and so forth. But that's
not what this statute says. And so we have appropriated in the
appropriation process the amount of money that we felt was
appropriate under the circumstances. And with that, I would
suggest that we reject this particular amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator
Chambers, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Madam President, members of the
Legislature, I'm glad Senator Pederson read from the statute.
But in any case, this amendment should not be adopted. I'd like
to ask Senator Stuthman a question if I may.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Stuthman, would you respond?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Stuthman, how much are you asking
for?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: In mine, according to what's in the budget,
I'm asking for another $411,000...$411,405.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you know how much money would have been
available had you adopted my amendment to cut out the textbook
loan program? Four hundred fifty-thousand dollars. We have