

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

May 11, 2005

LB 425

appropriate amount. We've been doing that on several...more than several occasions on the appropriations budget. And I believe some other senators have pointed this out on several occasions in regard to the budget that we've been dealing with, that the Appropriations Committee does great work. Nobody ever stands up here and says the Appropriations Committee doesn't do very good work. You can't. They put in long hours. They're here when all of us are heading back to watch our kids' baseball games or whatever. But you know what? I don't hear anybody standing up, and maybe there's a reason for this, and saying, hey, you know, Senator Bourne's Judiciary Committee, they get 25 percent of the bills, they do great work; you know what, let's pat them on the back. Of course they do. Senator Stuhr's committee, when we're out looking for "Captain Lunch-hunter," they're in there dealing with some pretty heavy issues a lot of times. The point is this. We're dealing with these issues over, and over again. The budget is out here. I don't think it's hands off. I think what we have to discuss is what's the appropriate amount, because there is confusion. There's confusion and there's enough people that are confused about what they were supposed to receive. It's hard for me to disagree with what Senator Pederson is saying. But at the same time, it's hard for me to look the cities in the face, after all the stuff that I've been shown, and say, well, this is typical, we just can't give you the money back, or at least a certain amount. So I thought and I said, on General File, the appropriate discussion was the amount. I still feel that way. I don't feel what's being asked for here at this very moment is inappropriate or over the top and not achievable if some juggling and some open-mindedness...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: ...in regard to this budget is concerned, I guess, works itself out. There is no...there is no way that I think when we're done with this amendment, one way or the other, up or down, that I think a good portion or a portion of the body, a section of the body, is not going to be upset. We're going to have a group of people that are just like, you know, something went wrong here. Something went wrong because of this agreement. But like I said, slide away from that. If the