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

May 11, 2005 LB 425

several things about this bill. I wish I could just call the question and we quit talking about it. This is money. That's all that's being asked for, is money. Let's be real about it. know Senator Bourne, my very good friend, is saying, well, there are five hundred and some cities in this state. How is this money apportioned? It's apportioned by population. Let's take Ellsworth, Nebraska, compared to Omaha. How much do you think Ellsworth is going to get out of all this? You know, look It's an Omaha deal, to try and get more money. Now, I would ask you this. Senator Bourne, you're an attorney. How many times would you advise somebody to go forward with something, thinking that there's maybe an implied agreement to do something? And I just don't think you would. And I don't think anybody in any position of responsibility would tell a city, you go ahead and budget. This is, in their minds, very confusing, but you go ahead and do it, based upon an assumption. You wouldn't do it. And certainly, what you would do, if it was that crucial in what you were doing, you would come and talk to some people and say, is this correct? Is this the correct understanding? There was no understanding like this. This is an effort to try and imply an agreement. And you don't go forward in any contractual or business relationship thinking maybe that's what was done. Now, we talk about budgets. I don't believe the city of Lincoln has even completed its budget yet. And we're talking about, the cities have gone forward with their budgets based upon this. I don't think that's correct at all. And I don't think any of the smaller cities of the state have gone forward saying, boy, I sure hope I get that money; let's go ahead and start spending it. They don't do it that And I just think that there's almost no horse that's too dead to beat, apparently. And so we're going to work on this And I just think this is a totally different situation, Senator Erdman, than what we were talking about with the jail reimbursement. This is not the same at all. Jail reimbursement was based upon a statute, not based upon a misunderstanding or understanding or anything like that. It was based upon a law that we had on our books. And it wasn't an effort by Senator Stuthman to do anything other than to request that we comply with the law. And I think that that's a reasonable request. I don't think it's breaking any precedent in going ahead, saying, the statute says do this, and we didn't do it, therefore we are