

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

May 12, 2005

LB 90A

difficult that is for me. It's extremely difficult, and you know it, don't you? (Laugh) I'm helpless. I can't do anything except be frustrated. So now that my third time is up, I have done. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I pushed my light on for two reasons. One of them was, since Senator Chambers is on a roll, I thought he might still have a little bit of residual that needed to happen for him. So I will give him the rest of my time afterwards. (Laugh) The other reason was that I'm still somewhat dismayed at, I think, 15 million bucks? Good Lord. We put that out. And Senator Erdman had an amendment on there to, what, \$1.5 million or so, \$3 million over two years, to help our rural counties, most of our rural counties, which was county aid, and got nearly, what, 19 or 20 votes, or whatever it was he got for that. There was quite a little bit of support for that. And that was something that would certainly be better than some pie in the sky economic aid or some training for someone in the future or something like that. But that was hard-earned cash that would go out and help our rural counties. When they talk about poverty counties, and you mention some of the small counties in the Sandhills and some of the areas like that, this was hard-earned cash that would do some good out there. It would probably have a little bit of effect on property tax, would lower it some. But anyway, it would give these counties a chance to do some things that they probably hadn't been able to do, probably improve some roadways, and that sort of thing. So I really...I agree with Senator Chambers. I think we needed to get more. I'm surprised that some of my other colleagues didn't push forward this aid to the counties like there was, especially after our \$15 million giveaway for training that we don't know where it's going to happen. Some of the senators talked about training people for some of the jobs that are be coming on. And Good Lord, we have community colleges, we got a medical facilities in Omaha that are probably world-class. I'm wondering what \$15 million worth of training is going to do. Are we going to do more brain surgeons or rocket scientists? What kind of training are we talking about? It certainly isn't anything...it must be