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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 40

city of Omaha is contributing to this fund through documentary, through the tax stamp fees, but I had some information that they have not received a grant from this Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the past. Is that...is that your understanding as well?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Actually, they have received some. They received only one grant last, in 2004. In 2003 they received zero and, just a minute, I have it right here, in 2002 they received one grant, in 2000 one grant, in 1999 one grant.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay and I, again, you and I, and I'm not criticizing you at all, but you and I had a discussion on this and I thought we had an agreement that there was going to be your amendment, and I was in a meeting when you withdrew your amendment, that said there would be some sort of a fair allocation amongst the congressional districts, and yet you withdrew the amendment. Can I ask you what the reason behind the withdrawal of that amendment was?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Well, quite simply, it's defined by seven days. Certainly we would have had time to fight this out and talk about it and come to an agreement, but with seven days left in the session I was concerned about getting the rental assistance out to the different districts so that in fact we can move people out of some of the homes. But I am certainly sympathetic to the distribution. I think Senator Flood has agreed it should be fairly distributed, and so the agreement was that we would put pressure administratively on seeing that that distribution occurred. And if it did not occur, then next year we would come back and make sure that we either moved the distribution of the funds to a different agency or, in fact, would cut the budget of the agency that is responsible.

SENATOR BOURNE: So did Senator Flood encourage you to withdraw the amendment?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Actually, it was worked out because Senator Smith had put an amendment up on the amendment and, in order to get to it, to discuss it, we had to clear off Senator Smith's amendment to the amendment, so that was the most expeditious way to get the bill moved forward so that we didn't run out of time