

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

May 24, 2005

LB 40

SENATOR BOURNE: A 50-cent increase. So specifically as it relates to that amendment, maybe we should just strike the increase there. Because I'm not at all comfortable that the DED is going to do the right thing and award these grants equitably. And be assured, I don't want any money that's not...that we're not entitled to. I just want there to be an equitable allocation. And the letters I get...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...from my community indicate it's not fair.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senators Bourne and Redfield. Senator Smith, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to commend Senator Bourne for, I think, adding to the discussion here. And you all know my remarks this morning that followed Senator Flood's remarks on the distribution. And if there is an unwritten policy, perhaps, within the bureaucracy, perhaps that needs to be changed. But again, I want to emphasize the fact that there are a lot of built-in economic development components, without tax increases, that exist in the larger cities in our state that do not exist across rural Nebraska. And if I put myself in the shoes of Senator Bourne, I would probably be a little incensed. Perhaps that's not what he would call himself right now, incensed. But I would certainly draw attention to the fact that there's a tax increase in a major portion of the revenue-generating area of the state, and none of that is guaranteed to come back. I would also warn the body that if we all engaged in that concept, it could get a little dicey. But I feel that there has been such a rush to raise the tax contained in LB 40, that has no sunset clause. And I think that we need to have more discussion on that. And that's why I will be proposing a five-year sunset when the amendment is ready. But I think we need...I know that we need to be careful here. When the Affordable Housing Trust Fund originally had the sunset that I sought to remove, I thought it was a good idea, even though I wasn't here at the time, that the sunset be placed, so that there could be, I think, some...a greater deal