

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

May 25, 2005

LB 425

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Stuthman, did you wish to? Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Louden, followed by Senator Schrock.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, agree that it's time for the state to pay back some of their IOUs that they probably got from the counties there when times were tougher. We had some county and city funding that was cut. We cut back on the jail fees, some of those were cut, and actually now is the time to make that right. There's money being used for various different programs around, and the \$408,000 isn't something like it's going to turn the place upside down, whether or not they have to pay it. I think this is someplace that we can help on the counties with their property tax. Not all counties share equal in it, depending on when they're...when they have jail people that have to be incarcerated and when they bring them down to the state facilities. This isn't something that will necessarily all be spent. It probably will be all spent because it seems like we have more people all the time that goes through this process, but that was the idea, they would spend it up to \$3.9 million, whatever it was, in there some place, and this is what it's all about. I think when it was put on the appropriations bill, when we voted it on here the other day, it was a good idea then. It had merit or else there wouldn't have been as many people vote for it as what there was. I think this is something that we have to pay attention for. It comes a time that we have to start looking after some of our counties and some of the bills that they have to pay. Otherwise, our infrastructure will be going to pieces. Some of your western counties, your rural counties, are lacking in funding for this type of work. If they have to take expenses for jail services, there's going to be less expensive...less money to be spent on other projects. There are counties, I know of two or three counties, that at the present time don't prosecute anybody because they don't have enough money to pay for the court expenses. So there are some counties out there that it's literally lawless because there are no laws in place. Anything short of murder, why, they usually let go. So this is something we have to look after. I think we have to start paying attention where we can help our counties and go from there. So I certainly thank Senator Stuthman for