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February 9, 2006 LB 996

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Louden, would you respond?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes, go ahead.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Louden, how much money has the

Governor laid aside, did you say, or put in his budget?

SENATOR LOUDEN: \$75,000.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: \$75,000?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you very much. Members of the Legislature, I believe Senator Louden is acting from the highest motives, but I can't say the same about the Governor. He is campaigning. Why do you think he put the stone on the guarter? To try to get votes out there in the hinterlands, where he perceives that Congressman Osborne has support. So why will he support putting \$75,000 into a cemetery, when he and others of his ilk are talking about the need to cut spending? There is someplace to bury everybody who dies in Nebraska. We don't need additional cemetery space. There is plenty of space for burying people, veterans and nonveterans alike. This is strictly a political move by the Governor. Since this unholy deal has been struck which will eliminate Douglas and Sarpy County, I'm not going to try to disturb it, unless my amendment is not adopted. If my amendment is adopted, it removes the prohibition against using General Fund money for this purpose. Removing that language does not mean there would automatically be appropriation any time somebody requests this money. So the deal which has been cut, which will help the Governor, thinks, pick up some votes in Box Butte County and surrounding areas where they may look upon this cemetery as something that flowed from the largess of the Governor, that can go forward. But I'll criticize the Appropriations Committee for putting \$75,000 in a project of this kind. I have always...oh, \$75,000. I have always been disturbed about the great concern shown for the dead but not the living. Could we get \$75,000 in money to aid living veterans who are in a bind? Could we do that? No.