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

February 24, 2006 LB 1019

They are not separate. And the way it's set up now may not be ideal, but it's historically the way things happened, and it's very difficult now to undo that. I do think it gives an element of local control, which certainly we've all always said we support and want. But in listening to this discussion and hearing Senator Stuhr's concerns about it, I do think that maybe the Omaha retirement system needs to step up to the plate and make some adjustments itself. So what I just talked to Senator Bourne about a few minutes ago was would it make any sense to have this, if we adopt the Bourne amendment, would it make any sense to have it percentagewise based on what the contribution is at the Omaha level as compared with the state level, so that it wouldn't be automatically the same amount "teacherwise," it would be, I think, maybe a fair way to do this. At the same time, it says to the Omaha retirement system, well, we think maybe you better adjust your rate and we're not going to reward you for not having as high a rate, perhaps, as the state system does. So, Senator Bourne, I would yield the rest of my time to you, if you would wish to address that particular point.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, about 2.5 minutes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. We are right now...I do want to respond to the fact that we've had several people say OPS needs to step up and contribute, and I'm getting the numbers right now of what they have contributed as an employer. And they have stepped up, and we're getting the numbers, but I will say it's in excess of \$1 million a year and they've been doing that over the past few years. I'll have these numbers in just a second for you. But the reality is, is that OPS is stepping up to try and solve the problem. Again, I mentioned this before, I think it's about equity. I think it's about fairness. I just had a discussion with Senator Wehrbein it's come to my attention that somehow, the way the amendment is drafted, that as...when it's stated as a percentage of payroll, there might be an advantage to Omaha based on that percentage of payroll. And Senator Wehrbein, I guess, is going to introduce an amendment that means it's equitable as a percent, and I'm fine with that. I'm not trying to get anything extra for the teachers who happen to teach in the city of Omaha. I just simply think, again, that we need to treat similarly