

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

March 7, 2006 LB 248

temporarily, to get us through the crisis. The same day, we had gotten a report from the veterans' home in Grand Island. And it was the middle of the summer; we were in special session. It was so hot in the veterans' home, and the air conditioning wasn't working, that we were putting sprinklers on the roofs trying to cool it off. And the veterans were being moved--I mean, these are people that are in a nursing care facility--are being moved around because it was so hot in that facility. And I remember Senator Landis asking the lobbyist for the road fund,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...you know, you heard this testimony; do you...can you give a dollar from the road fund for this purpose, one dollar to help the veterans, to help with the heat in that building? And the answer was, you know, we can't do that. You know, we're always being pressed by this particular lobby. I think they're the most powerful lobby out there, and they're just doing their job for the people they work for. And I don't have any problem with that. But this is the only revenue that gets totally designated for a specific purpose, and now they're trying to tighten that down even more. I understand that in the hearing on this that the city said, you know, we use this for lighting, we use this for traffic control. There are road-related issues that this designated fund is used for. Taking that ability of the city to use those funds for things that are road related, I think, further erodes the ability of local governors,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...government officials, to make good decisions for their constituents.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Chambers, on your motion to bracket till 4-7.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I want those lobbyists who think that they have all of the power, to know that they're going to have the opportunity to make me