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FLOOR DEBATE

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\$800,000 that was requested by the sheriffs for this purpose. Now, I give you that for a background, and we have alluded to this quite a bit in our discussion. Why did they come to us, the Appropriations Committee, asking for the state of Nebraska to fund this Byrne fund program? The Byrne fund was a program that was started by the federal government and the primary purpose of the Byrne fund was to attempt to mitigate some of the methamphetamine problems that were ravaging the country. So when the sheriffs approached us, naturally we were very concerned and we were sympathetic to their efforts to try and alleviate that concern. They have a network that has developed under the federal funding to work on this enforcement of drugs, primarily methamphetamine, and they're concerned, and the concern they expressed to us was if it is not funded then the efforts that they have made, the programs that they've developed, the personnel that they have utilized will vanish, and that they're afraid that it will have an effect negatively on drug enforcement. So with that, I agreed to bring a proposal for your consideration and this proposal is determined fiscally in a rather convoluted sort of fashion, trying to figure out how to get enough money to fund this program, and I bring it to you primarily for your consideration, just so that you will understand what the issue is. Then you can make a determination and you can participate in this discussion as to whether or not the state should put up \$800,000 of state money. The way in which it would be funded would be from a building fund lapse of \$150,000. Now that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator, I...

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Excuse me. I understand that the amendments got switched. Can we switch back to this particular amendment then, since they're both mine?

CLERK: If Senator Howard is agreeable, because her amendment was before this particular amendment. I was on another one of your amendments. So, Senator, with your consent, Senator Howard, you'll be up next.