

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

April 6, 2006

LB 1249

I know for a fact that the profit that Aquila has been acquiring has gone back into maintenance and the removal of the little bit of cast-iron pipe that they have. I'm not sure, but I've been told that there's very little movement in moving any of the cast-iron pipe that MUD has in the older part of Omaha. One of my concerns with a bill like this is the same concern I'm having with two other bills...or not two other bills, but one bill and one other issue living in Elkhorn, and that is this whole bigger needs more money. My understanding is MUD needs to have the growth and the money from that growth to take care of some of their own. Living in Elkhorn, Omaha needs the growth of annexing Elkhorn so they can have the money to take care of whatever their needs may be. It may be just greed. Now OPS needs the money from the other districts to survive, and the only one I'm sympathetic to is the school issue, and only to the issue, or part, that we need to take care of all of our children, but I do not support that we have to make it all one city, one school. But it becomes all...and this particular bill comes back to that, is MUD making money now? My understanding is they're working on a shoestring and have for years. They've had many reported gas leaks, that's going up, and not all those that are real dangerous. But that number goes up every year. The maintenance that they have does scare me. And the reason for acquiring new growth is to take care of that. Then what's going to happen to the new growth 20, 30, 40 years down the line?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dwite Pedersen.  
Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Friend would move to amend the committee amendments. (AM3144, Legislative Journal pages 1490-1491.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Friend, you're recognized to open on your amendment.