

February 26, 1996 LB 1248

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the way by ending the killing that we can end by enactment of a law, and that is state killing or the death penalty. I don't believe that Richardson County set out on this course with the intention of being able to come to the state and trying to obtain a state subsidy to bail it out of the problems that it got itself into through its own policy partially. The disasters, they cannot account for, except if they were really smart, they would not have organized the county where these disaster would occur. So they were lacking in foresight, but we are not going to punish them for that. Senator Vrtiska is trying to create a one-shot venture, and I think my time is running out, so I have to turn it on again because I do want to talk about the bill now and not just my opposition to the death penalty.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Lieutenant Governor Robak, members of the Legislature, I wanted to speak just briefly in favor of advancement of the bill. This bill has been difficult on General File I think basically for two reasons; one is we are dealing with a new concept, and, two, Senator Vrtiska, for whatever reason, came in with a concept that was a little broader than probably what most of us are willing to experiment with. But I believe two things, one, that there is a need, there is going to be once a decade, once every twenty years a need for this kind of relief. And, again, I want to repeat, if we are going forward with property tax relief, as we're setting up local property tax levy caps, it may well be that we will need something like this to make adjustments because of our own inability to foresee the future in terms of dealing with property taxes. Secondly, I think we should proceed not only because it's a good area of law to develop but because Senator Vrtiska is willing to narrow it down so that it's not just a hole in the gunny sack out of which the State Treasurer pours willy-nilly, but rather a very controlled access to state funds. Already, just from the General File debate, and we've had probably more General File debate than we need because there has not been this opportunity to get people together and narrow down the scope of the bill, but already all the hoops you have to go...many of the hoops...many hoops to go through are already there; it has to be abnormal expenses, has to create an undue burden. There has to be a natural disaster associated with all this. There is a limited window of time in which reimbursement