

March 5, 1996

LB 1044, 1076, 1155, 1167, 1207, 1268
LR 333

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Mr. Clerk, items for the record.

CLERK: Madam President, Urban Affairs Committee reports LB 1207 to General File with amendments, signed by Senator Hartnett. A new resolution, LR 333 by Senator McKenzie. (Read brief explanation.) Senator Lindsay amendments to LB 1167 and Senator Lindsay to LB 1268; Senator Wickersham to LB 1076; and Senator Schellpeper to LB 1155. That's all that I have, Madam President. (See pages 1038-41 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam Speaker, members, I have not addressed 1044 today. I have at some other times, and I guess I just think it's my turn. And you're right, you know, we've talked about this before, Senator Chambers, as how you're always looking for the worst that can happen and you feel that's your role. I look at 1044 as an opportunity, and I look at it as the unique opportunity for what I am going to refer to as, not only outstate, but a lot of other places in Nebraska in getting the kind of services that I think are needed, and that have not been there, and I don't see them forthcoming in the future without a change in the current structure. Some of my frustration has come from sitting on the Appropriations Committee, and I will mention some names here, but it has nothing to do with those particular names. It has to do more with the position. And with Mary Dean Harvey and Dale Johnson in the same room, and I could not follow the funding stream nor how they fit with the agencies nor the service that they provided. It was not necessarily these individuals that were at fault. It was the system that we've created, the structure that we currently have that required, in my estimation, the agencies to approach service delivery the way they did, and to get the kind of resources they thought they needed to do that. Well, with 1044, I think we will have a much better opportunity, number one, to track those dollars, track those services, and to see the result of those expenditures and services, how they actually impact people, which is why we are all here, and how they are going to improve the service delivery system and what actually people are going to be receiving. I think the restructuring, for the most part, because it has already started in some places in Nebraska, will be done on a local level, not with all the bureaucracy we