

May 8, 1973

SENATOR CARPENTER: I am only guessing at this time. The overall fund taking care of all the emergencies, my understanding, is about a half a million dollars.

SENATOR BURBACH: Well, you see if we had a million dollars there, with a half a million dollars what are you going to do? We only...we are official once a year. Theoretically, it sounds...well, annual session...five hundred thousand should be sufficient. This is not true. It should be a million dollars set aside and if only five hundred thousand is spent, only five hundred thousand needs to be appropriated for this purpose. It's real important and it's not false econ...it is false economy to do it this way. It is not spend thrift, over liberalism to place one million dollars in that fund because even a million dollars in a catastrophe can...usually doesn't go very far. If a million dollars was correct in '69, think of the difference in values today in '73. So I would be hopeful before we leave this session that somewhere along the line we would recognize this problem and place that amount of money and I don't think it will cost anymore to place a million dollars in the fund than it does five hundred thousand over a ten year period.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis, do you have some direct input here. Senator Clark was next to speak unless..

SENATOR DUIS: I wanted to check with Senator Burbach because I know I had a hand in your emergency fund bill and, Senator Burbach, was I incorrect? It was my understanding that this funding was to be kept at a million dollars and that when we passed this we started out at snow removal and we decided...we went over here on the side and we visited for awhile and we said, now we got to do this, we got to keep this in the fund not only for snow removal but for something else and that this should be retained in the Budget and then when the Governor's budget comes out, this should be.. this should be always at a million dollars. Am I correct or incorrect?

SENATOR BURBACH: Senator Duis, the original intent in 1969 was snow removal but this should not be considered only snow removal, it should be for emergency aid. That's responsibility in the Governor's office with the Civil Defense people working and in any area that these people work, it should be broad enough to cover this. And the intent at that time was that this fund be maintained at a million dollars replenished so that it would always be one million dollars and, of course, when we've gone to the annual sessions... I am not critical of the Budget Committee. I, probably, should have went and visited with them or someone should have, but on the face of it...well, annual session, five hundred thousand, but five hundred thousand dollars is not necessarily nearly enough money. A million may not be but it is much closer and it doesn't cost any more money to put a million dollars there and replenish it and put this money out on interest if it is not used. You are absolutely right, Senator Duis.

PRESIDENT: Senator Clark, back to you. We really...again, the chair would instruct you that we have nothing before the body, so you are speaking on points of personal privilege.

SENATOR CLARK: I just want a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

SENATOR CLARK: I am extremely worried about the river, also. It runs right through my district out there and I have contacted Civilian Defense with Colonel Johnson this morning. Colonel Johnson was about twenty minutes out of Lincoln at