

and encourage and work as diligently as I can to keep any of them from passing. I hope you will do the same. I hope you will hold firm to where you were yesterday because I think you made a decision, it was a hard decision, and I know the temptation is to start undoing the whole thing, but I really believe if you start undoing it, it could all unfold and I believe you really have made a decision here to begin reversing government and going backwards, not backwards, but backwards in terms of expansion of government. So with that said I would ask everybody to oppose these various things, get them over with, and I'll withdraw the suspension or move it to the bottom or whatever the status is there and let Senator Chizek go ahead as I promised him I would.

PRESIDENT: Very well. Senator...

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have to the bill is a motion to return LB 722 to Select File for a specific amendment. That amendment being to...in Agency 27, Program 305, add \$1,801,018 and that is offered by Senator Chizek, Senator Landis and Senator Goodrich.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. President and members, this amendment would reinstitute the 1.8 million in state aid to mass transit programs that were cut yesterday as an overall part of the Appropriations Committee amendment. There are others that will speak about its effect on Lincoln and I will address my remarks to Douglas and Sarpy County. The mass transit system for most Douglas and Sarpy County is called the Metro Area Transit and has been around since about 1972. Metro Area Transit is not and I repeat, is not a part of any city or county government. MAT, as we refer to it, is a separate and distinct political subdivision, just like a city or an NRD. MAT has a total budget of about 14 million. Of that 14 million, four million come from property taxes that MAT is empowered to collect as a separate political subdivision. Four million comes from riders who pay sixty cents to ride the bus. 2.7 million come from federal funds already severely cut. About two million comes from advertising revenues and 1.3 million comes from the state. MAT employs 375 people in the Omaha area. This 1.3 million cut is nearly ten percent of the MAT budget. The cut comes, as others, with very little warning in the middle of their fiscal year which unlike the state runs from January to