

PRESIDENT: The debate is closed. Senator Chizek, you may have the opportunity to close.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. Speaker and members, I'll have just a couple of minutes and I would yield three minutes of my time to Senator Labeledz. I've got to emphasize again that Metro Area Transit is a separate political subdivision, it is not an arm of city government. Senator Warner talked about 715 and other bills. Equity is equity. We would end up paying twice for the same kind of service that everyone else is paying for once. This cut will raise taxes and property taxes. Senator Haberman talked about lowering taxes, what happened there was countywide reappraisal, they reduced it to ninety-three percent. It wasn't a question of lowering the taxes. This simply is going to raise the property taxes for the citizens in Douglas and Sarpy County and it is a matter of fairness and I would urge you to support it and, Senator Labeledz.

PRESIDENT: Motion is...excuse me, you did yield to Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I just will take a couple of minutes. I was hoping, and this will be unusual coming from me, that we could somehow transfer the funding of the muni court system and give it to the Metro Area Transit system because I felt that is far more important than transferring the muni court system. I inquired this morning whether or not there couldn't even be an amendment drawn. But, I understand that it would require a bill, that I couldn't do it, so that just blew up in smoke. But to me the take over of the muni court system is secondary to the Metro Area Transit system. The majority of the people from Omaha and Bellevue and Lancaster County, the majority of those people who do use the service are those who either don't have a car, they can't afford to drive a car and mainly they just don't drive. There are a lot of people, elderly people especially, that can not obtain a drivers license anymore and, therefore, have to rely on the bus service, especially if they come within the neighborhoods, and if we don't get this funding, and I don't think it has been mentioned the budget is almost \$14 million for the Metro Area Transit company and as Senator Chizek said it is not part of the City of Omaha, the cuts or the elimination of cuts from the federal...or elimination of