

the number of buses, particularly the smaller buses in part that would replace larger buses, and also the few larger buses would be more efficient as well as far as fuel consumption. And between those two items there would be a significant reduction in their cost of operation. This becomes important because the aid that was formerly available from federal funds has declined and is likely to continually decline, but more...and as well as state aid has also been reduced last session. There is one other thing it seems to me is unique. You can have discussion about the ability for local property tax to be assessed but Metro is different in that it overlaps a number of governmental subdivisions. And, as I recall, the property tax authorization does affect a portion of the area they cover but because they lap over, in not only into other governmental subdivisions, other municipalities, they also overlap on a county basis as well and it is particularly complex then to assume that those additional funds could be acquired readily even though we did enact legislation earlier this session that authorized a higher mill levy as a part of the City of Omaha's budget. But that does not affect, as I understand it, the ability of other governmental subdivisions within the Metro area to participate in that levy. Because it is a one-time cost, then it seemed reasonable, and has been in the budget all along, reasonable that this, too, be overridden. The second half is \$200,000 for the small watershed program and this, too, primarily is because of particular unique problems in one community. Obviously, the small watershed program applies to a variety of projects as far as eligibility is concerned across the state. But the particular area that has been addressed last year and again this year involves the area above the community of DeWitt which suffered severe flood damage, you will recall, a couple of years ago. Not only did it create a tremendous amount of damage to its principal area of employment as far as a manufacturing plant, but there was additional damage, of course, to the town in general, as well as surrounding agricultural area. It was felt that these two situations, while they primarily deal with individual areas in the state, were of sufficient merit that these two ought to be considered and approved by the Legislature as an override. And with that, I would urge the body do just that. While the primary impact is isolated in terms of locale and not statewide, they are of significant uniqueness that I think there is ample justification for this override to occur.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. President, I would request to divide the