

September 30, 1992 LB 11

these dollars that we said they would be getting are cut, then that means they can't meet their obligations. These dollars are spent. So let's keep in mind here, let's put our money where our mouth is. We said this would be for 20 years. Unfortunately, we probably don't have the money right now, but we're going to have to cut elsewhere and honor our position. I think this might teach us all a good lesson. When we're doing things that we commit, I think Senator Horgan said we should not commit future senators to things that perhaps we can't honor down the road. So I think when we're in appropriations sitting there listening and so on, I think this might raise a flag. Let's say to ourselves, remember the MIRF, remember it. When anybody else wants it in the future, remember the MIRF. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, just very briefly I oppose Senator Schellpeper's amendment; and many of the things have already been said including yesterday talking about this and the day before. But I think we need to keep in mind that we have dire financial straits in the state at this time also and this is money that we can use. And for those that say, well, we shouldn't let local governments have to raise their taxes, you see, we're going to probably have to look at that ourselves or make other severe cuts in the same way. So whether it's our pocket or their pocket could be arguable. But it seems to me that it's realistic to make this kind of cut. I don't think it's permanently damaging to them in most cases. Perhaps some have committed to that. I think that was not necessarily the wisest thing to do to commit those funds to something into the future. But we also have to look out for the State of Nebraska's interest at this point. I think we're giving ample warning to what the impact of this cut can be to them come their next fiscal year. So I'd urge opposition to Senator Schellpeper's amendment and would urge adoption of LB 11.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Once again, I want to impress upon you that what we're trying to do here is to take a 5 percent cut, now this is not a 5 percent cut for the next 2 years. We're talking about a 5 percent cut for the balance of this contract so we're talking about \$4 million