

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 22, 1999 LB 142

really are needing money, they should go to the General...to the General Fund and get it there. Maybe they need it; maybe they don't. I think some do and probably some actually don't. But I think we have an obligation to replace some of the money that they actually lost. And we thought we had the perfect place for them, but they didn't want it. But now Senator Beutler wants to come in and say, let's take this money that the voters said will go here, and here, and here, take some of those revenues. And to me that's totally wrong. The voters told us last fall what we should do, so let's just do it and take some money someplace else besides out of 142. I think it's the wrong approach, the wrong time. If we're going to do it, let's be up front about it and do it the way that it actually should be done. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Before we continue the discussion, in the north balcony, we have, as guests of the Legislature today, 27 students from the fourth grade class of Pawnee City School with their teacher (introduced teacher). They're guests of Senator Floyd Vrtiska today. Would you all stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for being here. Continuing the discussion on the suspension motion, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Schellpeper, talking about the Environmental Trust Fund, brought me into this discussion because I think that one of the things that I'm concerned about, and this is not necessarily directed at the suspension motion, but it is directed at having some discussion about this. One of the things that I noted about the discussion about making any changes in the Environmental Trust Fund is how we create a constituency for things when we have spending. We are creating a constituency here by creating a windfall for cities and counties under this proposal. And even though we will come back next year with...possibly with a more comprehensive look at how we're distributing that money, it will mean more money, because once you have had that windfall, you don't take it away and we will have gnashing of teeth and wringing of hands. And I think that we need to look at...a little bit at some sort of a mechanism that's going to guarantee, especially for the counties, because we are assuming, under this proposal, that the reason that we're