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FLOOR DEBATE

April 17, 2001 LB 305, 833

talking about the lottery funds, and some are getting tired of it but others are starting to be converted. But let me offer you an observation, and that observation is this; that this year there is great expectations about teacher salaries and all of us are probably trying to make some decisions on our own about what are we going to do, how we going to afford this, how we going to fund it, is it the right thing to do or not. There was a bill introduced, that I introduced in the Education Committee, using the lottery funds or a portion of those lottery funds for tuition reimbursements. In the back of your mind I think you should begin to hold out what other things can we do if we cannot accomplish LB 305 in what it attempts to do and how it can be done; what sorts of things need we do at a minimum with this Legislature towards addressing teacher shortages, and I would suggest to you the use of those lottery funds as an incentive for people going into the profession and reimbursing them for their tuition expenses is a good use of those funds. I'm not here to, Senator Bromm, talk against your bill, because there are some of those distant learning things that are very important to do. However, I would keep in the back of my mind, if LB 305 does not survive or it is substantially changed in a way that doesn't accomplish this, what are you going to do for teachers this session? I would suggest to you that at some point in time these lottery funds may look very attractive to you to do some tuition reimbursements. That's not a reason, maybe not, to vote against LB 833 on General File, but at some point in time as the session narrows you're going to have to begin to think about what are some other options. I'll tell you that one of the options I'm looking at are those lottery funds for those tuition reimbursements because I think we probably need to do something this session. I'm sure that will not satisfy many but if we're going to seriously address those problems this is one of those options you better keep open. Thank you, Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Chambers, on the committee amendments.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm glad Senator Kristensen fired the first shot across the bow. I would like to ask a question of Senator Bromm.