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LB 543

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, having failed to cut the increased appropriation from this program, this amendment offers an increase over the current level of appropriation. Now, can you beat that? To move from trying to cut it all, this amendment increases the amount over the present appropriation. But I have to level with you. What the Budget Committee proposes is to increase the amount to this PEAP Program. That's the one I'm aiming at. As Senator Bromm said, I have to be relentless. The Budget Committee proposes to give this program an increase of \$750,000. I propose to keep that whole \$750,000 as an appropriation, but divide it; make those in the church schools plunder three funds to get that money, instead of only one, which is set aside exclusively for them. This amendment would divide that \$750,000 three ways--\$300,000 would go to the SSA Program, which...SSAP Program, which is available to public school students; SAP, which is available for public school students, would get \$300,000; then to the church fund, which is exclusively for church schools, will get \$150,000. That should not be, but this would be a more equitable distribution of money which is being inappropriately spent: \$600,000 would go in the two public school funds; \$150,000 would go into the private church school fund. I would like to ask...oh, Senator Brashear is not here. I'd like to ask Senator Bourne a question, and I'm asking him this question based on his status as a lawyer.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bourne, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR BOURNE: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bourne, do you accept as valid what I've said, that there is one of these funds which is exclusively available to private and parochial schools, and public schools have no access to that?

SENATOR BOURNE: I...I believe that...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.