

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 17, 2002 LB 185, 1105

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I also object to the motion to suspend the rules in this particular case. There's obviously a reason to want to suspend the rules. In this particular case, it's the fact that this is a railroad loan bill that's being attached to a telecommunications bill, which doesn't really have a whole lot to do with anything. And if this was the first opportunity that had been given to Senator McDonald to present her bill maybe I would feel somewhat differently about it, but the fact is that she had been twice offered the opportunity to join in with a germane sort of a bill, LB 185, and she chose not to do it. So it seems to me that, as Senator Bourne has said, here we are, very late in the day, and now we're going to start in to discuss whether or not it's appropriate to be making loans to small railroads on a bill that deals with telecommunications. I just think that it's a violation of the spirit of the law and it's...at this late date it's certainly detrimental to those who were...are to follow and whose bills will not be heard. I think if you do this, it's subject to any bill being put on any other bill and saying, well, I'll just suspend the rules and we'll go forward with it, and I think that it violates the spirit of our...of our process and I would ask that you reject this proposal. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Beutler, on the motion to suspend.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator McDonald, members of the Legislature, Senator McDonald, you may not be aware that a number of years ago we had an intense and long debate on this subject of the proper "securitization" of short line railroad investments and I think that the result of that debate was the language that is in the bill currently. But this is not a matter that's noncontroversial, at least it certainly wasn't the last time that we went around on this. The bill seems to provide, without setting up any standard, that the Railroad (sic--Railway) Council can accept whatever security they think protects the interests of the council, and I note that it says the interests of the council, not the interests of the public. And I'm trying to remember back, but the council itself I think is appointed by the Governor. There are certain types of railroad people that