

arguments in favor of doing that. This whole \$70,000,000 is not even due yet, only part of the \$70,000,000 is due and if we can put this into a form where it will be ready to have the support of thirty-three or perhaps even more members on Final Reading, that should be our goal. And the problem with leaving interest in is how much interest on how much of the \$70,000,000 for how many months? Are you going to have interest for one month on one payment? Interest for two months on another payment? Interest for three months on another payment? That gets so complicated. That dilutes the support for LB 284. We need a vehicle to return the \$70,000,000 as soon as possible and the way to do that is to remove the interest from LB 284 so that it can have the support of thirty-three or more members on this legislative floor. Yes, that is and should be our goal to as quickly as possible, see that our local communities have a share of the \$70,000,000. Again, I want to remind you all of that \$70,000,000 is not overdue. Two more payments have yet to be made by the old formula and we are starting with a new formula, therefore, no interest payments should be made.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I appreciate very much Senator Schmit's determination and sincere and honest effort to get this money distributed to governmental subdivisions. When I saw the amendment as it was given to us last week and it is a revised amendment, I had some concerns about it and I talked to Senator Schmit as well as others and did on Friday, ask the Attorney General for an opinion on those amendments as we are now studying them and had hoped that by the time we got to these amendments today we would have that answer. As of this moment we have not received that opinion and I can understand that in the shortness of time and the complexity of the whole problem that it is time consuming to write an opinion from them. I was given the inkling that we might have some part of an opinion on the amendments by today. We have not at this point. I still have some concerns about it. I am sure that all of us do not want to jeopardize the distribution of these funds with a question mark hanging over them again and it is in that light that I would hope that Senator Schmit ask that these amendments perhaps be held until Select File, until we get an opinion as to their constitutionality before he asks us to adopt them. I have pledged as Senator Schmit has said together with him and our committee and our staffs and whatever help that we can put together in the interim a full and complete