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statutes here which we have got to do even on the last day we have to sacrifice everything else, there is one bill here we have to get passed and that is to give some flexibility to invest those funds more wisely. Senator Fowler and some others know about this but you are wasting that money if you don't do something with it. Senator Koch, the 4 million dollars you are talking about comes from severance tax. The schools will get this year, based on about the most recent information and investment earnings, maybe 6% on that but the 4 million is going to deflate because it is locked in at 12 or 15 or 16% or whatever the inflation rate is. We aren't even making inflation. We aren't even balancing. It is the most unwise, poor, bad, horrible, terrible investment practice that anybody has been allowed to get away with and as I say, if the truth were known, a whole bunch of us should be lynched. We are unwisely handling these funds. I am trying to take that money and give it all to the schools and get immediate return of 20 and 30%. That is what that amendment does. That, to me, makes sense and the schools if anybody, should be the ones wanting it. So I would urge you to adopt the amendment. It does that primarily. It does the other things I mentioned but I think it accomplishes some good things.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Koch talked a bit about the concerns that he had on the school weatherization funding and I think it is important that you know some more details on that. First off, I think he is inaccurate in talking about the federal funding program and the demand there and the situation that we are under. Right now there are some 227 requests that have been put forth for this federal funding at a total cost of about 7½ million dollars. Of that amount, I think about 50 of those requests were funded at 1.8 million but that still leaves 177 identifiable energy conservation needs for these public buildings that cost 5.6 million dollars. Now this is only the tip of the iceberg. There are 2,500 schools in this state and we are talking here about just a couple of hundred that have applied and it is quite clear that we are never going to be able to finish the job under the present situation besides the fact that the federal government has indicated they are going to discontinue this program in a year or two. So what we are talking about is a situation where we have clearly identified a need, clearly identified a benefit, we have started down the road and we have spent, I guess, 1.8 million dollars but we have millions and millions more