

oppose the Morrissey amendment but not the concept. It seems to me we have a body in the Legislature that has statewide accountability and it is very, very knowledgeable about the disbursement of funds, and that is the Executive Board. They are in session year round. They come to Lincoln on a regular basis and do an agenda of administering special funds, special grants, have held hearings. They have been the task forces in a number of different situation. If there is somebody who is going to oversee and disperse money on that kind of a basis, my notion is that the Executive Committee, which is the most powerful administrative body in this Legislature, probably ought to be the right people to do this, as opposed to picking between one narrow subject matter committee or another. The Executive Board has a wide range in membership. It has the administrative leadership of the body. It has experience in this kind of area and I would suggest to Senator Morrissey that if there is an appropriate home for this function, it is the Exec Board and not any of the single subject matter area Standing Committees of the body.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The member from Hastings, Senator Smith, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to speak on this issue, but the more we've discussed it I decided I would, rather than on the amendment, itself. I guess I have to stand here and disagree with Senator Landis's proposal, which now talks about placing it in the Exec Board for review, as opposed to the Revenue Committee or the Natural Resources Committee. And I have to tell you, Senator Morrissey, I guess I have to be on the opposite sides with you on this, too, and I have a very specific reason for feeling the way I do, and I think, Senator Morrissey, you could very well understand this. Those of us that are members of the Natural Resources Committee have dealt with this issue in depth in these last months, much, much more than any other member of this body has had the opportunity to to date, and not demeaning at all the Exec Committee or the Revenue Committee, still this is an issue that we are very familiar with, next to other members of the Legislature, and so for this reason I would oppose your amendment, Senator Morrissey. I think that you are much more capable than other members might be in helping with this study, but I would also like to ask Senator Schmit a couple of questions, if I might. Senator Schmit, in your study that you are proposing for the Natural Resources Committee, I have a