

advancement of the bill, followed by Senator Morrissey. Call is raised.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I really have just a couple of questions for, I assume, Senator Coordsen, or perhaps Senator Hefner. They made some reference to this earlier. This is not to the substance of the bill that has been discussed most of the day, but it deals with the funding side. My concern is on the amendment that was on page 1028 of the Journal, it indicates that the benefits that were being discussed earlier shall be appropriated from the employment security special contingent fund, which I understand. But then there is language, "if there are not enough funds available such benefits will be appropriated from the General Fund. And my question rises with how does some future Appropriations Committee make a judgment as to if there are not enough funds available for these benefits? And the reason I raised the question is that I think it was indicated earlier on some of the estimates that there would be in the vicinity of \$400,000 in excess of that, something over that, that might be claimed during the course of the year. Depending upon the level of payment that was involved, it appears it could range from 350,000 to 800,000. And on the average it seems like the fund is replenished by about 546,000 a year. We do authorize other expenditures historically to be used in that fund in...traditionally have done. Then last year, as has also been discussed, there was authorization for some of these funds we used in some job training with the community colleges and Department of Economic Development. So my question with all that to either Senator Hefner or to Senator Coordsen is, if that funding is at a slightly higher level than is projected, it would be about a million nine, almost two million at the end of this fiscal year. But it could be depleted very rapidly. And should the bill have some amendment before it is fully enacted at least I give guidance as to what the minimum amount ought to be in that fund. A year ago, when we did enact some legislation, it permitted the use of the funds for the job training, I know at least we discussed in Appropriations Committee, I believe, an absolute of a million, but I think we also looked at about a million and a half as an absolute fund, minimum ending unobligated balance that we should have. The other thing I'd like to have you comment on in connection with all of that is since alcohol is also a part of this amendment, as it was drafted, I think the numbers we're using are all dealing with drugs other than alcohol. And if that would not