

March 5, 1990

LB 1028  
LR 258

this particular person so that he can solicit information to release to the media to benefit the Governor's tax policies and to praise those efforts. The Department of Revenue is not a public relations firm for the Governor's office. It is not a propaganda agency for the Governor's office. It is supposed to administer our tax laws in a fair and objective manner and give to the state senators, who request the information, fair and objective information on that issue. We have a bill before us that will be coming up that talks about full disclosure of the benefits of LB 775. It's a bill that Senator Wesely has introduced for several years now, each time that bill has been stifled. It calls for full disclosure of the benefits and the tax consequences of that particular policy, but yet that bill has not passed the Legislature. Apparently what this Department of Revenue official wants is he wants the good news on 775 so he can use it to broadcast across the...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...state and further the Governor's reelection efforts but he doesn't want to know the bad news that would be disclosed if we were to pass LB 1028 or any other bill requiring disclosure of the full information concerning LB 775. I don't think that's an appropriate use of tax dollars funds...or tax dollars payments in funding to the Revenue Department. If this person is a salaried person, if he is a state employee, his duty primarily is with the Department of Revenue and to carry out the functions over there. The duty is not to solicit and be a public relations man for the Governor's office. And I think that brings in the whole question how these bonus payments are being allocated. The allegation has been made if we look at these bonus payments, look at who they have been paid to, you will find the same persons receiving them every year and the reason they are receiving those bonus payments are not because of their any particular competency...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...or performance but primarily based upon their political loyalty to the Governor's office.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, please. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. And the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.