

did not file it today because I think the bill is important that it be voted on today for first round and not bogged down with more amendments, but I'd like you to look at, is taking out transportation, all transportation expenditures from the General Fund operating expenditures provision in there. In other words, there are some General Fund expenditures minus, I think, the categorical aid, the tuition payments, the adult education and so on. In a way what they've done is they're being punished for being efficient, and this would be one way for us to address that. I'd like you to give me some of your thoughts and something that we can work on between now and Select File.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore, time is nearly expired, but if you would go ahead and answer the question, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, yes, Senator Kristensen, I think you said it...you answered your question with your first statement, saying that we all have little things in there we'd like to have included. And the fact of the matter is, and I'm answering on the commission's behalf and Senator Withem can agree with me or disagree. But the fact of the matter is, that transportation is your issue that you think needs to be in there. The OPS issue is minority students, Omaha Westside has gifted programs. The thing about it is it's kind of an all or nothing type thing. And we, to date, have tried to say that, you know, your size has something to do with how much you spend, and that's what we're going to stick with. And our concern is, if you add transportation in, then you take away the argument to put special...minority students in, gifted students, things like that. So it's one of those things everybody wants their own exemption and their own thing cut out of the bill. And we've simply tried to keep it simple and keep it fair by throwing...treating everybody the same and keeping everybody in. And that's the answer why, and Senator Withem can expound on that probably.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to call the question, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Conway moves the previous question. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now close? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.