

in terms of my offering amendments or reconsiderations, is to grant this modest request that will do fairness for the citizens without hurting this bill. I could understand the supporters of the bill opposing the amendment if it reduced the amount of money that they contemplated would be available for carrying out the purposes of the bill. This amendment will not reduce that amount of money at all. So what I hope is that thoughtful people, such as Senator Hannibal, who have in the past been misled and misguided in their votes on this issue, will think deeply and search the inner recesses of their heart and find their way clear to do that which is right. I have not heard one person who has opposed this amendment, anytime it was offered, who said that what is being asked for is unjust. I have not heard anybody stand on this floor and say that what the bill does without this amendment is that which was an incentive for seeking the bill in its present form. So why do they oppose it? Because LB 1059 has become the LB 775 of the 1990 Legislative Session. There is a coalition trying to hold together this fragile construct, and they have determined that it is necessary to try to defeat any amendment, no matter how reasonable, because to them the end justifies the means. Now that is very good if you are of "Machiavellish" school, but if we are moral people, then the means have to conform to that which is good in the same way that the end, itself, must be good if good is what we are seeking. To use an evil means to achieve an end that is supposed to be good is not justified, and I think Senator Hannibal would agree to that, and he nods agreement. Now we have to take the next logical step. To use this bill as a means to give a windfall to the Highway Trust Fund, when the purpose of the bill is to give aid to education and reduce property taxes, is not right. We should adopt this reconsideration motion, then we should vote affirmatively for Senator Smith's original motion. Senator McFarland was correct in stating that we have been debating this bill for a good period of time, but the votes we have taken have not always resulted in that which is good for the public or good for the Legislature. There are people who voted, or at least one person who voted for 775 who has regretted it ever since, and has fought courageously, in some instances, to try to rectify the harm that was done by that 25th vote, which has been a curse to this state, but a benefit to a certain selected group of elite interests. We have a bill before us today and, on a number of proposals that have been offered in the form of amendments, various senators have acknowledged that they voted against the amendment even though they knew the right thing to do would have been to support it.