

February 28, 1991 LB 699

override? That's why we chose not to attack the Highway Trust Fund and put the money where we all knew it needed to go. Members of the body, Senator Rasmussen, I will admit I've heard that she had a lot of courage and I think she shows it today on the first time she has spoken on the floor, she begins to go on the Highway Trust Fund issue and to LB 1059 and I give her some credit. I'm not sure...well, we'll just leave it at that at this particular point. On the floor I think what we need to discuss here is simply when we discussed LB 1059 there was no real support, to my knowledge, to the people on 1059, no argument that taxes needed to be increased to go to the Highway Trust Fund. We all felt that that issue needed to be talked about and brought up again. It is here on this funding issue. We take the Highway Trust Fund money and it kind of reminds me of the following, it reminds me of a bank account that I may have had and all of a sudden the bank account where I had \$1,000, I looked at my account the next day and there was \$1,100,000, and I looked and I said, where did that money come from? And it was kind of a windfall. And the bank made an error. It automatically came to my account and the bank then informs me the next year that, oh, by the way, we made an error, you're going to have to give that money back and I say, I can't give that money back, I've already obligated to spending it, you know, and this is really what we're arguing here on the Highway Trust Fund. All of a sudden an account through no doing of their own, through no reason for a highway construction, through no request of their own was increased by a tremendous amount of money. And now we hear arguments that we say...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...yeah, we got that money; it's nothing that we even asked for; we didn't even have it in our budget for the most part, but we can't give it back because we've already got plans for it. I mean, that's truly what we're talking about here, absolute nonsense on those arguments. The point is, on the educational plans that we have for the state we cannot afford by the State of Nebraska to put General Fund money into all of these projects. Even on the good days we can't afford to do that. Can we set up a mechanism where we have a substantial sum of money where interest can be accrued, where innovative projects throughout the State of Nebraska can have a chance to flourish? And Senator Rasmussen has given us a chance for the future for education of the state to have a funding that you do not have to go to the General Fund every time and beg for