

and prevented the problem from happening.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. I guess I still need a little more explanation. You talk about this money, where it comes from, is there sufficient money in a fund that you're talking about or would it have to be raised as new money?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: The \$500,000 is there and has been there, so there would be no further cost incurred by the ratepayers, so this money has already been paid by the power companies, thus already spread to the ratepayers the way business expenses are in the past. It would not have to be reraised. It's already there. We checked. The \$500,000 is one of the funds that is still intact there.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Morrissey, your light is next. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Morrissey, I guess I have a couple questions.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Morrissey, would you respond, please?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And I admit I had these probably a couple of weeks ago when we first talked about this, but if there's...are there other claimants on this fund, if this would pass potentially?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator, not at this time. There will be...we will be setting the precedent for the other political subs that were shortchanged by the improper distribution of this fund. The total of this fund...my request is 34, the others could not exceed the rest of the total to 100,000 which would be \$66,000.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: There is presently 500,000 in this fund.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well I'm offering another assumption that there is no such thing as a free lunch, so even though this isn't General Fund, it is money that somebody either will be short or will have to be raised and so if we would pay this