

myself, and I'm speaking for myself again here, was vehemently opposed to LB 241, which was co-sponsored by 24 senators who have locked that money up for 13 years, well into the next century. This proposal only uses these funds to this...this...the up coming...the next two bienniums. So the argument is this, before any beds are built in this biennium, if there's a concern over prisons, if you're going to build, if you're going to spend \$81 million on prisons, and building free-standing prisons, it's going to take a while to get you there. And in the mean time Governor Morrison, at the request of Governor Nelson, is looking at the variety of prison options. And it simply is our opinion, one, if we come under court order with planning money, it will take us a while to ever get there. Two, it is my concern once again that if you do not spend this money on these projects and start immediately next year locking...escrowing the money for prisons, it's my concern it will be spent on prisons. It is...I don't want to talk for the committee here, but it was my attitude there's a window of opportunity, while we answer the question on the prisons, where we can spend this money and still have not only...there's a variety of earmarks, about 10 million dollars a year which will free up in the '95-96...million dollars...in the next biennium. If we have to build prisons in '94, something like that, that money would be available to bond against. And as far as planning money, it would take a while for us to gear up towards that. But we felt...it was my suggestion at least that we ought to spend the money now while we're waiting to come to a final determination on the prison situation.

SENATOR WESELY: So you're saying...do we lock out then other capital construction projects completely for any period of time, or are you saying that there is some...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...capital construction cigarette tax money available at a certain point, and how much? I was a little confused by that.

SENATOR MOORE: We would spend all the cigarette tax money, or this recommendation...

SENATOR WESELY: Um-huh.

SENATOR MOORE: ...would spend all the cigarette tax money