

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...now what do you think of it, maybe there wouldn't be quite this uproar.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, as a member of the Appropriations Committee I thought I should stand and I feel obliged to stand and support the effort by Senator Dierks and others. You know this has to do with rehabilitation, and even if it would use General Fund monies, it seems to me a small price to pay for the state directly doing its share to help maintain a rehabilitation program that has worked very well down through the years. I know that people privately could bid for the responsibility of providing this food operation just like it has in so many other public buildings. However, I'm also convinced after talking with a number of the people who manage the system in the Capitol for us, that if we would give them the flexibility and the opportunity to manage this program, there would probably be an increase, slight increase in prices which I think we all can afford. All of those who use it including the state employees and those people that come to the Capitol on days like today would prefer to stay in the building and have something to eat rather than go out, and I'm sure people that manage it now, if given the opportunity to manage it and given the flexibility to manage it, would make it so and provide for that \$100,000 net loss, but most importantly, it would also then guarantee that these people would also maintain the program for those folks that are being rehabilitated. I'm not sure exactly what the total number is of the Department of Education budget, but it is...it's 580 million bucks. Now a lot of that you know is entitlement monies and aid monies, so it can't be considered. The operating budget of the Department of Education though is in the multimillions of dollars and I would like to think that the intent language established by Senator Dierks and others would provide that somehow or another they can find that kind of money to help maintain this program. I'm not sure how much of the \$60 million worth of surveys, studies or consulting fees happens to be in the Department of Education, but I hope we find out some day. But when we read in the paper and hear on the news that we're spending \$60 million a year on consulting fees, it seems to me we can find a lousy \$120,000 somewhere to keep that program going in-house in our Capitol and also without, do that without hurting, without hurting at all the Department of Education. I'm sure that part of the proposal by Senator Dierks would also have to be worked so that the