

greater. Bear in mind when we talk about taxes, we're talking about the total amount paid to all of the subdivisions of government, by whatever means we use for raising revenue. I believe, in agreement with the rest of the members of the committee, that the better process, the more economical process for the state is to continue the State Athletic Commission in the same manner, at least in the foreseeable future. So, with that, I would encourage the adoption of the Conway amendment to the committee amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Wesely, you're next.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, I, too, rise in support of the Conway amendment. I thought Senator Coordsen did a nice job of summarizing the committee position. Let me... I understand Senator Moore and Senator Bernard-Stevens' position, but the issue has been settled. The bill has been killed, and the proper thing to do is to reinsert the funding and the changes that need to be made, because the current language reflects the situation had the bill been advanced and passed. So Senator Conway is merely trying to get the budget back in the shape it should be to reflect what the committee did do. But I also want to follow up a little bit on the Athletic Commission itself. People are concerned and angry about the fact now it's costing money, \$28,000 or whatever the dollar figure is. But bear in mind that it wasn't that many years ago that they had a Cash Fund in the range of 100, 150 thousand dollars that we took from them to help us balance our budget, back in those hard days. So they had built up some reserves, they had built up a Cash Fund. But now we took it away from them, and now we're beating them over the head because they don't have adequate cash resources. So it's really not a fair argument and tack, I believe, to do that. If I'm wrong on those figures, I'd be happy to be corrected. But from what I was told, the Athletic Commission had done a good job of fiscal management and had built up a cash reserve, and we took it away from them, and now they've had a little more difficulty. Had they been able to retain those cash monies, maybe they wouldn't be back here asking for General Fund money. And so I think in my view we're, in some ways, repaying them back for the cash funds we took from them some years ago. And I do think it's best to keep the State Athletic Commission going. I know a lot of people care very deeply about that and did express themselves at the hearing. I am glad the committee killed the bill, and I hope this