

and should at that point in time to show good faith to the highway fund.

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

SENATOR LYNCH: ...to David Bernard, but I don't have much left, do I?

PRESIDENT MOUL: No, you don't. Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Lynch, I'll give him a little of my time for you. I want to make a few points in observations and then I will also want to get some questions that I'd like to direct to Senator Bernard-Stevens at this point. In fact, Senator Bernard-Stevens, why don't I just do that before I start and make my observations. One of the things that we've talked about, certainly last Friday and this morning were, in your terms, the real issues and the real policy choices. How much do you think would need to be spent in today's current numbers of dollars that would give us and raise teachers' salaries to an adequate? I know we're...an adequate level, I know we're asking for 7 million here, would like 14 million, but that's three to \$600 per teacher. I assume that's not enough. What would be an adequate...if you could tell me what would be an adequate level if we didn't have financial problems in the state?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: It's a fair question, Senator Kristensen, and I'll answer it this way. I believe with the 20 million that we had obligated over the last couple of years with the exception of the first part of this fiscal year, that brought us from about forty-second or fortieth, somewhere in there to thirty-eighth. I think it would be helpful that if we could get into the twenty-fifth percentile, so obviously we'd be looking at, if we were going to do that as a state, anywhere between 50 to 60, \$70 million I would think.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay, and would it be your intentions that to get to those levels we would take that money out of the Highway Cash Fund?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: To get to those levels?