

that money was sort of free money. That was money that was never intended to go into the Highway Trust Fund and I want to make sure it's clear for the record that that's not true. You're making a huge policy choice here that at some point in time whenever you're short of funds that this...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...additional cent is going to become available. I'll speak further in the future. I did tell Senator Bernard-Stevens that I'd give a little bit of my time and you can have it to answer those questions if you'd like.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Kristensen, I very much appreciate your courtesy. One of the things I wanted to point out in dialogue with Senator Kristensen to this process is that there are a lot of options now becoming available that are now being discussed for the first time. I've heard three or four different options of people coming up to myself and saying, if we didn't take Highway Trust Fund, but we needed a \$15 million or so permanent funding, would you be willing to look at some other areas, and the answer to that is yes, absolutely. I'm open for discussions on those areas, but what I would say we needed to do is to get moving, move this bill to Select File and have Senator Kristensen, myself, Senator Withem, Senator Rasmussen, Senator Moore and other people sit down with some of the other interest groups that are talking now about alternative fundings, seeing what we can work out and I am sure...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...we can find something. At this particular point what we're talking about is finding a base of permanent funding that can be built upon. I have no intention of increasing that base. I have no intention of at least going for anything further myself...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...and I don't believe anyone else would at this point. There would be a base and then General Funds, we have to decide what we can do from year to year. I think that's fair, I think that's a rational, a way to go, and I appreciate Senator Kristensen's courtesy on this matter. I