

out there. No matter which idea you pick there will be a very, very strong lobby opposing that. We have to fight that. We have to, at some point, say this is where we draw the line, there is a logical, rational reason for taking the percentage that we're taking from the Highway Trust Fund. The rational reason is that regardless of whether you argue people knew, they didn't know; whether a policy was made, wasn't made, there was money put in the Highway Trust Fund on an educational equal opportunity bill, 1059. There was money put there. The Highway Trust Fund people did not lobby for it. There was...they didn't expect it, it just happened. That money is there for reasons of policy decisions that we have earmarked things to go to that Highway Trust Fund. We are here today to say that portion, should it be transferred? Is there a logical base for it to be transferred? Does it change the overall direction of the state on its commitment to highways? And the answer is, no, it doesn't change the overall direction and it can be transferred and we can do two policies that we...the Legislature has decided many, many times to do. Help education and certainly keep a tremendous amount,...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...nine hundred some million dollars over the next ten years...six years going to the Highway Trust Fund. It's a good way of managing limited resource to accomplish maximum gains in the multitudinal areas and that's why we need to continue this debate...excuse me, to continue this discussion and vote 1272 onward.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Bernard-Stevens has done a very good job of outlining the general issue that we're discussing and some of the ideas that we are dealing with as we work through LB 1272. At this point, I would like to return to the specifics of the Lamb amendment which is an increase in the excise tax on beer, and just remind the body that I made a comment the first time I spoke on this amendment, very briefly, that this had not had a committee hearing and that that's an argument we always use and I would use the argument at that time. But I think it is important to explain a little the historical relationship between the alcoholic beverage industry and the Revenue