

government cannot come in here and compel the Legislature to make an appropriation, that's why we have to do it. So if there are other programs from which the state derives money, federal programs, the federal government could just reduce the amount that the state would get. If that amount turns out to be however millions...however many millions the Governor wants to give to this private outfit, called Maximus, I don't see how it's going to come out of a federal grant. But if they do that anyway, because they will feel that's the money they have in their hands, and that turns out to be an inappropriate usage of that money, then when the federal government comes knocking on the door, the Legislature will feel like an appropriation has to be made from the General Fund to give that money back to the federal government so that interest will not accrue and other federal funds will not be withheld. It becomes a complex issue, it implicates the constitutional authority, well the requirement that appropriate...that money be spent only by way of an appropriation made by the Legislature. All I'm trying to do is use a concrete situation that we're facing today, it's not theoretical, it's not made up for the purpose to shed a little light on something far more serious and costly that we may be facing in the future. So I hope that the members will at least think about some of the points that I've tried to make.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wehrbein, you are recognized to close.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, thank you, Senator withem, members of the body. I simply will close. I don't know whether it's appropriate to comment. But since it was raised in the amendment by Senator Hall, I'll simply say, read the article very carefully. I was quoted accurately. I consider it a giant stretch to the headline. I would urge you to vote for this deficit request. We need to move it along, and it's appropriate that we pay it. We have looked at it, and so I would submit to you to vote yes on this motion.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question now then is, shall LB 331 be advanced to E & R Initial? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 331.

SPEAKER WITHEM: LB 331 is advanced to E & R Initial. We now