

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and I did it that way so that we could get some of these facts before the body and I did not want to be argumentative and I didn't want to ask Senator Engel questions he might not answer, so that's why I did it in that fashion. As I read this, I see that the Governor sets the guidelines for administering the fund, the Governor sets the guidelines. Then on page 4, starting in line 14, as Senator Brashear mentioned, the commission shall establish principles and processes for using the fund consistent with the economic development priorities of the state as determined by the commission in cooperation with the Governor and the department. Who has the final say? With all of the wording that has been put in this bill, the impression is given that this is a great cooperative effort, there is tight accountability and a Governor cannot use this as a slush fund. But as you begin to read it you see inconsistencies, you see gaps and the ultimate conclusion that has to be drawn is that the Governor is the one who controls this. This should be called the Governor's slush fund. Who in here is so naive as to think that a Governor in a tight reelection campaign race would not reward those who would help him or her and punish those who would not? How many of you are that naive? Does a person who comes into political office suddenly become altruistic, impartial and possessed of a desire to do only those things which are in the best interest of those most in need even if his or her political future is harmed? No, that doesn't happen. I found out just this morning why we had to rush that resolution through yesterday on The Conference of the States. The Governor is going to Washington to testify Friday and he had to have it. That's why everybody who was pushing it was willing to stay here all night if necessary. And if the Governor can push the Legislature on something like that where the expenditure of money is not even involved, do you think that a Governor is not going to use his slush fund? Let me ask Senator Engel this question if I can because it's a general type of question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Engel, did the Governor's people who talked to you, and you notice I'm not asking you to give me names of anybody.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.