

Senator Beutler has said, Senator Wesely, Senator Schimek, and others who may support Senator Beutler's approach, they are, in my mind, seeming to say that not a large amount of money is going to initially wind up in the fund because this is done in the nature of an experiment to see how the whole idea will pan out. The thing that should be considered is that if one of the high-spending campaigns would result in expenditures above these guidelines that are in the present law, if you have a first come, first serve principle governing this law's operation, that big spending campaign could wind up not only taking all of the money that is available, but be entitled to whatever additional money might come due. So I'd like to ask Senator Beutler a question. Senator Beutler, is this bill, is this idea that you have, if somehow it were to be funded, based on the notion of first come, first served, in terms of who takes from the fund?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, that particular question has never been directly approached for the reason that it was never believed by any previous Legislature that we wouldn't fund this by one means or another.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I'm asking you now, with the law as it stands.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And I'm telling you it's not addressed.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then we would presume that whoever comes to the fund, if they can show that they meet the requirements laid down by the law, they will draw from that fund whatever amount they are entitled to, even if it would exhaust the entire fund?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, there are a variety of circumstances that could occur, and if this matter is not funded in a manner that is reasonable, that is perhaps a question that should be addressed.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But here's what I am asking, are there, and I am going to ask the question a different way, are there any restrictions in the present law which would prevent what I'm mentioning from taking place?

SENATOR BEUTLER: With the caveat that I'm not su...I would like to explor more...