

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I just wanted to acknowledge to Senator Bernard-Stevens that I heard him say he didn't want to kill this bill. Well, if he doesn't want to kill it, he'd better get it on life support. It looks to me like the amount of money he wants to take out of it is going to, basically, kill the bill because that's...would appear to me to be the intent that he would be going after with that kind of a reduction in the amount of funding that is necessary to carry this bill out. As most of you know, I've been a strong supporter of economic development, and this is one of those areas that is really important to me, and I am sure it is to many of you to find these kinds of dollars and put into that kind of a venture. As far as the bracket motion, I, obviously, oppose the bracket motion because I don't think it is the time to do it. I talked to Senator Engel. I visited with him about it. He indicated to all of you that he intends to...hopes to get this bill moved on to Final Reading, and then it will have to sit there until we see how the dollars are added up, and that appears to me to be a much better way to do it than at this time to try to, in fact, what I would consider kill the bill, or as I said earlier, get it on life support so it can exist until the time it comes forth for more consideration. So with that, I stand here and oppose, I guess, both the motions that Senator Bernard-Stevens has put forth, and would hope that the body would see fit to oppose those types of maneuvers and move this bill on to Final Reading. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in opposition to the motion to bracket the bill. The issue is one where, David, I have got some amendments that fo'low yours and I would like to get to them. The bracket motion really doesn't do anything except put off what we'll eventually deal with. The question of whether or not the money is there I don't think is a problem. The Revenue Committee saved us roughly \$70 million when they killed the income tax proposal, and it is not a question of whether the money is there, it is just how do we spend it, and whether or not the Appropriations Committee spends it before we get a chance to spend it here on the floor. We had an Exec Sessin in Judiciary today, and, principally, we had it because Senator Lindsay and others wanted to talk about the issue of the pay raise for the probation officers that was passed by this body last year and it was vetoed. And the whole question centered around whether or not the bill, if didn't