

May 8, 1995

LB 425

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I think that would be correct, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, and I'm just trying to find my way.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yeah.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is an amendment I'm going to offer and I will touch on why I would do it. This is what we have been calling the slush fund bill. The Governor has talked to us about how we're overspending and wants to know where are the cuts. This is where we should make the first cut. The bill, itself, should not move, but prior to getting to the point where somebody tries to cut the legs off the bill, I'm going to try, if I can, to remove some parts from it. Because of the relatively small amount of money that we're dealing with, we should restrict it, if we're going to do it at all, to what are called smaller businesses. One which employs more than 100 people would be, in my mind, closer to the bottom of the category of big businesses than it would be at the top of the small businesses. If we're going to put these size of businesses...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...within brackets, they should be bracketed with the larger operations and not allowed to take as much as 25 percent of this fund. One business could do that from the smaller businesses. And if one such business does it, then it has taken all the money available in the fund from any other businesses of this size. So I'm going to offer an amendment and then I will probably have to refine it and maybe offer others to really achieve the goal that I have in mind because there still may be more than one reference to businesses employing more than 100 people, but I'm going to make a start.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Madam Chairman, in response to Senator Chambers, and I'm going to let Bob carry most of this amendment for us, because he spent most of the time with it, but as far as the amount of this fund that would go to the businesses over 100 employees, that was amended earlier in the last time we discussed this where no more than 25 percent would go to these businesses, as Senator Chambers alluded to. The reason we want