

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein, would you yield to at least one question, maybe two?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein, the Appropriations Committee did not do this action when you deliberated for at least half of the session in committee. Why did you not do this action in committee?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, we honestly didn't consider it to any great extent. We knew it was there to come in next June. We did, at the point when we were talking about all these issues, we really did not give it serious consideration about doing it at this time. It just....

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Would it be fair to say that the pressure for this is not coming from the Appropriations Committee at this point, but coming from the executive branch?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Probably.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Members of the body, we're being toyed with here. We've got people who are working for the Governor who wants to be elected. And Tim Becker is back there saying, we've got to have this, the Governor wants to have this, and so Senator Brown and others just say, we're going to do this for you. I mean if you want to really know what's going on, that's what's pushing it for the most part. And there are a lot of arguments that you can hide behind, Senator Brown, to do that, and that's fine. The bottom line is we, the Legislature, are going to have difficulty if you do the Brown amendment. And if you don't understand the amendments that we're talking about and the effect, don't vote, don't vote on something like this if you're not sure how it works, please don't vote. What we're doing, for the most part, by...if we vote against the Brown amendment we're saying that we, the Legislature, are taking responsibility for our budget that we passed. We said that we're going to use General Fund moneys, spend it in other areas, because we are hoping that the Maximus federal dollars would come in. If you take the money out now Senator Chambers is right, there is going to be, in my