

really a statewide...this will be a statewide group of people giving dollars for spirit plates. The state should, for the most part, receive some of the benefits, and I strongly urge you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Kristensen, followed by Senator Brashear.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I rise to make some explanation of why the committee amendment is the way it is, and what policy I think it does create and send. Perhaps I should have stood up on Senator Chambers when he took 10 percent of the committee amendment and you sometimes have to make a judgment, well, 10 percent isn't so bad. Another 90 percent starts to become a little over the line and so I want to talk to you about what we did. When a bill comes before the committee, obviously the sponsor has a variety of purposes for a bill. Senator Brashear's policy was really threefold. One is to obviously create the spirit plate itself. That was a policy issue. The second one was where does the money go? And we kept the integrity of where he wanted the money to go, in other words, it was generated by the university system. Those are state dollars, wanted to keep them in there to provide assistance to university students who came back in, a statewide purpose. And then if there were any money left over, Senator Brashear's original bill wanted the money to go for renovations, repair, and maintenance of Memorial Stadium. And if there was anything left over, then they could go elsewhere for similar purposes in the system. Obviously, given the shape of Memorial Stadium and the various possibilities for renovation, improvement, repair, and maintenance, there would never be any other money going there. We felt that too narrow. Keeping with Senator Brashear's policy, we expanded it to the state college campuses and to the other university campuses to share equally. And the reason is state money that was generated by our university would stay within the higher education system. There are a variety of other places. Is equalization fund a worthy cause in the state? Absolutely it is. That money becomes local money, in effect, even though we give it out at the state level; but once it gets into that system, in effect, it is state aid. It's not expenditures spent here. That's the reason the committee amendment was there. I'd rise to defend what the committee did in keeping with the spirit that Senator Brashear brought the bill to us. I don't think he brought the