

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 22, 1999 LB 495

of some money that we had put in to make all the schools be able to have Internet access. And one of the individuals that was conducting the conference said that out of all the things that the people had talked about the one that was probably going to have the most significance was Nebraska's allocating of money to make sure schools had Internet access. And so I believe that this is a real critical area for us to be involved in. Technology is certainly the wave of the future and I also agree with Senator Stuhr that all kids learn differently and that we need to be very concerned that we are meeting the needs of all children, and that we are preparing our young people for the kinds of opportunities they need to have for the future. All that said, I believe that that should be the focus of the way we are currently doing business in education, and I do have a concern that we...we create these special little funds to address things rather than having the expectation that our system, which we have just made a commitment to a certain continuing level of funding with the override vote that we took, that there is the expectation that that happens. And I...it also worries me that people look around and see a pool of money, as we have some money from the Education Innovation Fund, sitting there and it's a...it's almost impossible not to think that that's a great place to avail ourselves of those resources so that we aren't out here competing with other priorities for General Funds. And I'm not certain that that is...nothing against the...certainly nothing against the focus of this legislation. I'm just not certain that that is the best mechanism nor do I necessarily think that creating funds and especially in light of some other decisions that we're making is the best way to go. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. Further discussion on the Stuhr amendment, Senator Kiel.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise in very strong opposition to this amendment. Here we are again talking about raiding the lottery funds to fund another set of ongoing operations which are the responsibility of the state and, ultimately, the responsibility of local school districts. I have always thought that funding ongoing operations with gambling money was a big mistake. The only way that I could support the way that the lottery funds