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March 23, 1999 LB 495

CLERK: No items at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We will resume on LB 495. We're debating the Beutler amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, some people may not remember what Senator Beutler's amendment is, but it's telling us what the meaning of "is" is, actually, what annual...the meaning of what "annually" would be in the context of this bill. I think Senator Beutler probably has a reasonable amendment, but is "Squire" Wehrb...Senator Wehrbein, I need to ask you a question if you can get back into the frame of mind we were in this morning before we left. Are you there?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, you had said when I was being critical of the fact that this is a one-time appropriation. You were saying you would hope that they would spend the money wisely and they may pick it up and carry the program on. Did you say something to that effect, more or less?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, yes, that they would spend the money for some things, one-time expenditures, that would be able to be operated in the future at much less cost or that type of thing, that would be used for new projects that could be maintained and operated in the future with much less dollars.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But if they were to continue to be operated, it would not be with any of this money out of the Lottery Fund. Is that true?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, not...that's true the way, if this is one time, that they could probably stretch it out a year and a half or two, that would be up to them, but it would not intend to be for ongoing operating, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if they were going to rely solely on these lottery funds, when that allocation was gone they would have to terminate anything they were doing that needed those funds to sustain it. Isn't that true?