

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

March 25, 1999 LB 324

But I, too, had felt that we needed a little more oversight over this and perhaps it ought to be by categories. There's all kinds of things out there. I do not want to usurp the duties or the responsibilities of the Health and Human Services Committee and I do, also, recognize since this idea was hatched a year ago, we actually look like there's going to be quite a bit more money in it. There's going to be a lot of people interested in it for various reasons. I think there ought to be some kind of oversight but I think that the trust fund also ought to be free to make those decisions that they think they ought to make, and that's the reason I was going to proceed with caution. But it's my intent, either have a summer study, a joint study, conversations, whatever it takes, probably something short of a resolution, I hadn't intended to look at that, and so that next year we would have something that would meet everyone's interests and still give that freedom to that trust fund. And it's...actually trust fund is not really a correct explanation, it's really more of a cash fund that has oversight by this committee. And so I, too, agree with the issue but I just wanted to say that next year I thought would be time to correct anything we want to do with it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Continued discussion, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I just wanted to say, briefly, I think I used the word "blunder" in my original description of the policy decision last year, and that was probably too strong a word. I did want to get your attention, and I did want to say, quite forthrightly, that I think we really need to consider very strongly alterations in the system. And the Health Committee, when they put that system in place, was under enormous pressure. It was very complicated. There was a lot going on at that particular point in time, and they wanted to be sure that this money was captured for healthcare, and I think every, as far as I can tell, most everybody in this legislative body thinks it should be used for healthcare. So I don't think we should be afraid of reassessing the mechanisms here because we may be afraid that it will be used for other than healthcare. I think that commitment by the Legislature is pretty strong, and so I hope the body will feel...feel relaxed enough to really take a look at the mechanism and ask ourselves,