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Transcriber's Office

April 19, 1999 LB 637

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Vrtiska, discussion on the bracket motion.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm very interested in listening to some of the discussion. And certainly some of the things that Senator Baker has talked about I agree with. I guess what I'm hearing over, and over, and over again, and it's interesting that the issue seems to surround around the fact of the loss of federal dollars. And, of course, nobody wants to lose those federal dollars. But while you're thinking about that, it keeps...the thought keeps coming back to me that what we're really saying is the federal government is a lot smarter than state government, so we ought to turn everything over to them, and they can do so much better job of managing these funds and taking care of this problem than we can, so we ought to let them do it. I don't subscribe to that idea because the further we get away from home, the more difficult things come. And I think that's been addressed by several members of this body. I guess one of the questions I'd like to ask, maybe Senator Brown could respond.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Brown.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Brown, do you...it's been talked about, and I guess nobody has really come up with an answer. Is this going to require a great many more people who work in HHS to carry out this program? Or what is... You know, we're hearing all kinds of things. What is the...what can you tell us?

SENATOR BROWN: The...well this gets into some of my response to Senator Bohlke's issues. There are two aspects of it. There's the financial management aspect, and the customer service aspect. And so when you're talking just about the receipting and disbursement of the money, the financial transaction piece of it, that's a fairly simple process. But then determining the...if there are problems, and responding to them, from a