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LB 779

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Schimek, on the Baker amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I would like to yield part of my time to Senator Engel.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, I know Senator Baker, of course, testified at the hearing and he was rightfully irritated with someone who is on the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, and as we all were. And when he brought the amendment up at that point in time, I agreed on the amendment. We have discussed it since then and from the information I could gather, and as Senator Wickersham has been explaining to you, we felt that it probably was unconstitutional because of their...of their status as far as we setting up their...having control over their salaries, et cetera. And, of course, the agreement with Senator Baker at that time was later on that he would...he would not bring up the amendment. So, of course, it was a surprise to me this morning when you brought it up, Tom. I don't blame you for doing it but it was a complete surprise and I believe that this...the bill itself is entirely independent of the issue that you're bring up, and LB 779 can stand alone without this particular amendment. So I know what you discussed with me that in the interim you would have a study of the process as far as the Board of Lands...Educational Lands and Trust, and perhaps to remedy the situation you'd like to have remedied. But I really don't think this is the place to do it on this particular bill this late in the session. And so that's...those are my comments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Are you yielding the balance of your time back to Senator Schimek, Senator Engel?

SENATOR ENGEL: Oh, I yield the rest of my...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The only thing...thank you, Senator Engel. The only thing that I would like to add to the discussion is