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January 13, 2000 LB 480A

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Tyson. (Visitors introduced.) Debate on the advancement of LB 480A, Senator Wehrbein.

**SENATOR WEHRBEIN:** Yes, Mr. President and members, I'm going to explain my vote on this particular case. I'm going to vote no. Normally, when a bill passes I will vote the supporting appropriation, but it would be my intent here, once the firm appropriation bill is worked out, to have the agency absorb this cost or redirect funds from other sources in order to accommodate this initiative, assuming that it goes to Final Reading. So, normally, my policy is to always vote yes because of the necessary appropriation, but in this case I believe that there should be other funds redirected to this initiative or whatever it takes to keep this revenue neutral at this point. There's two phases here, well, two reasons. One is that I believe that we're going to have to work very hard to hold the line. If you've looked at your numbers from yesterday, there is nothing, nothing, I repeat, left in the budget at this point to...for legislative spending without getting into Cash Reserve and/or the property tax relief. So you're going to have to start making those decisions now. The other is, based on this particular bill, if we are to do increased emphasis on women's initiatives as is presented in this bill, I believe that we also then could consider...should consider simply redirecting what we're doing, where that emphasis is. If what is not...if it is not being done correctly now, then let's simply redirect the funds that are there.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schimek. Excuse me, Senator Schimek. That was a false alarm. Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Thank you, Mr. President. I ought to have turned on my light sooner but I neglected to do so. All I will say is that the bill itself received 27 votes. We ought to send the A bill to follow it. I hope those who agree with the purpose of the bill will also agree that it would be very cynical not to send the A bill with it. So I'm going to support its advancement and I hope enough of my colleagues will do so to advance it.