

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

April 5, 2000

LB 1138

funds, in the state aid to municipalities, in the state aid to counties and in the state aid to natural resource districts. Now you may recall we had a long discussion and much controversy about the state aid to schools bill which has been advanced to the Governor's desk, which provided for a mechanism, not quite the same as this, but nonetheless a mechanism that provided for continuing growth in a fund. Now, by a little different mechanism, what the Revenue Committee is saying to us is that these three state aid funds are going to automatically increase in accordance with the basic allowable growth percentage of the base limitation. So, once again, we are being asked now to solidify, not only the school funds, but additional state aid funds and give them priority at any one point in time over any appropriations to the university, to the State Patrol, to any of the state functions. Statutorily, they're going to come first unless you change the statute. And I think that that particular provision is highly objectionable. So this is one of the types of items that is in this bill. I think there should be a long discussion just of that item itself, if nothing else. So with that, I suppose I'm in favor of the Wickersham amendment since it delays things for one year, but, beyond that, I have a hard time understanding why one should be in favor of anything else in the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Mr. President. Regardless of whatever you think the philosophy of individuals on the Revenue Committee might be, at least two bills made it out this year that I personally didn't agree with. (Laugh) We're going to spend a considerable amount of time discussing those bills, and have already. That's the prerogative of every member of the body. And the members of the Revenue Committee change, as members of all committees change, and so I don't know how Senator Beutler can characterize that particular committee as monolithic or even a black hole, because various rays of light do shine out of it from time to time and, in fact, I would suggest to you that one of the rays of light that can shine out of the black hole that is the Revenue Committee is this bill. And I'm quite astonished at Senator Beutler's notion that the principles that underlie this bill are not something we should