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it. I guess I'm disappointed that he has taken that turn in his attitude. But that's certainly everybody's own privilege, to feel they way they want to feel at a particular time. I would hope that you would support the motion to return for this amendment, so we can in fact carry out what we agreed to do at one time, with the concurrence of many, many members on this floor. And with that, I will turn the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Senator Vrtiska, I...you apparently weren't listening to me. I didn't say I was against transferring the funds from the Hardship Fund for this purpose. I have questions, some of those questions related to process internally, that I just discussed on the last time that I spoke. Those questions don't relate to the basic concept of switching the money from the hardship fund in and of itself. Senator Bohlke, could I ask you some questions, some fact questions related to what's going on here?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bohlke, would you respond?

SENATOR BEUTLER: We've heard a lot of...we've heard a lot of conceptual talk about why it's a good idea to transfer more General Fund monies into this fund. Let me ask you some facts about what we're talking about. In the last couple of years, how many consolidations have there been, and how many unifications have there been? Do...both consolidations and unifications, as I understand it, are...have available to them incentive payments out of this fund, either way you go. Correct?

SENATOR BOHLKE: That's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And there's no difference in terms of their ability to access the funds just because they unify or just because they consolidate, is there?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Well, except there are some limitations about having to remain unified in order not to have to eventually pay the money back, that is not true with a merger or consolidation.