

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

April 10, 2000 LB 1213

on the process. And I understand that and I just want you to know I did not know about this fund till it was called to my attention by a school superintendent who called me last week. I put the note in my file and didn't open it up until just a little bit before we started working on this, and his note said that there's some money in the Hardship Fund. I hadn't looked into that so I immediately called my staff and about 6:00 and found out that there was this money that had been unused. It was put away by the Nelson administration. It's called the Temporary Mitigation Fund. It was designed for small schools under hardship. The rules are fairly complicated as I understand it and there has not been any use of it. It's because the rules are fairly tightly drawn and it's been not very usable for them and that's the reason it's not been used. There's \$2.865 million in it. I assume that that probably started out at 2.5 or 2 to 2.5. I don't remember what was put in it. Maybe Senator Bohlke does. My proposal is to take...and so when I saw this I brought it to the attention, as you've heard here on the floor during the speaker, I probably didn't realize that the issue was so great. But I should also being here before on the fifty-eighth day this is an issue and I understand that concern. So that's where we are. If you return this, the amendment is filed to do this to put \$2 million into the Hardship Fund...into the Incentive Fund, takes \$500,000 one year and the \$1.5 million the other year. The transfer has to go from the Hardship Fund to the General Fund to the Incentive Fund and it's all within this amendment. And that's where we are. Do as you will. I myself personally believe it's appropriate funding. It has nothing to do as far as I'm concerned with the appropriations process. It simply the fund was called to my attention and I brought it to your attention, and I would say do with it what you will. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. The question is, shall LB 1213 be returned to Select File for specific amendment? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you voted? Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 22 ayes, 21 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to return.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The question is not agreed to. Mr. Clerk,