

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

April 10, 2000 LB 1213

been requested. Mr. Clerk, please read the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 1693.)  
7 ayes, 27 nays to adjourn, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The motion fails. The call is raised. Debate on the motion to return LB 1213 to Select File. Senator Brashear, followed by Senator Cudaback, Robak, Byars, Beutler, Chambers, and Coordsen. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, I have had enough questions that I'm going to summarize again the procedure before us. I understand this may not be the will of of the majority, but at least by putting the motion up we have an opportunity to talk about it, we have an opportunity to think about it. The concept I think of a recess, although I don't know and I didn't consult with Senator Chambers, probably was to allow for further discussion. Given the rule that a bill lays over, we have to do this tonight or not do it this session. And what I'm proposing to do tonight is to take a fund that has been identified by our Chairman of the Appropriations Committee as not being used, it's \$2.865 million, it's available. It was heretofore not available. If we transfer it pursuant to the amendment from the Hardship Fund to the General Fund, it is revenue. It is revenue now and it is available to be a part of the appropriating, vetoing and overriding process. I don't know that a majority want to do that, but what I do know is it's worth talking about since it came upon us relatively as a surprise. I think it's an interesting concept. I think particularly this year where we've had given the sequence and the timing of what we're doing, they say timing is everything, well, this is a turn for the good, so to speak, if we're interested in it. I wanted to preserve that opportunity. Senator Beutler came to me off to the side, as did Senator Baker and others, and indicated, well, \$2.865 million hasn't been used, but there are outstanding obligations of about \$500,000. And I indicated immediately I had been supportive of the concept of "incentivizing" schools to consolidation and these types of things. So while we're all talking and thinking about it, this is an opportunity for somebody else to think about a process that might allow us to do two things and that is to fulfill commitments presently existing and not yet paid and also to