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FLOOR DEBATE

March 13, 2003 LB 197

I read this bill I took a little bit of interest in it mainly because of the work of the Appropriations Committee, and as it relates to the search of the Appropriations Committee for funding for anything and everything it could get funding for so that we don't have to cut more state aid to political subdivisions or the school districts or we can better support the university or whatever. This is a pile of money and I wanted to ask a little bit about this pile of money so I could better understand how it might be used and whether it might be used to deal with some...to fund some particular aspects of our funding problem this year, so that it could be helpful to us in the short term.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Beutler, I certainly agree what you're asking and saying in your idea, but, in fact, under the federal act, it's not...this money is not available to use for other projects other than those specified that I indicated in the opening on the bill, and those are...those are issues that deal with unemployment, with employer tax reductions, and benefits, for operation infrastructure, and they can't be used...

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Excuse me, Senator Vrtiska. Would senators please hold down the conversation so senators can be heard as they're speaking? Thank you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you. There are restrictions on how this money can be used. And although I agree that it would be wonderful to be able to follow your line of thought, it just isn't...it isn't legal under the statute that sets this money out from the federal government.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Let me ask, just to get the parameters of what's happening here, and I might indicate to you it follows along with another concern I've had about the appropriations process generally, which I hope we can address some time in the next year or two, and that is that generally the Legislature doesn't have a good handle on federal funds. And now we're beginning to get in from different directions, homeland security, voting rights, different things, larger amounts of