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FLOOR DEBATE

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federal funds, some of which are discretionary in nature and can be spent here or there or in other places, and it is troublesome to many of us in the Legislature that executive branch offices are now making decisions about large amounts of money when really all of those decisions should be coordinated by the Appropriations Committee and approved by the Legislature, from my perspective. This is kind of like the personal services contract things. We don't know how much we have out there and we don't know...we don't really have any control of it. We put some general language in the appropriations bill about the spending of federal funds and authorize it and that's pretty much it, and other forms of federal monies are completely off budget, such as the unemployment insurance business, which may be okay. But this large amount of \$48 million, you know, recreates that concern in my mind, but let me ask you about the figures. Forty-eight million dollars is what was in the committee statement with regard to the amount coming in. Is that...

SENATOR VRTISKA: That's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...is that what is actually coming in to us?

SENATOR VRTISKA: That's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And so of that \$48 million, now with the committee amendment you're putting roughly \$7 million into this one...

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...this one program, which was to do what again? To...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, if I might answer, the purpose of the money was, and I feel somewhat ill at ease talking about this, but the truth of the matter of it is, in order to get the computer system updated with the federal and the other states, it's necessary to upgrade there. Their computer system is 20 years old and they're not able to follow...you know, we're living in a computer age, whether we like it or not, ad...