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LB 367

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler and I have filed this amendment and, if I've got it correct, this would say the \$300,000 would be taken out of the Educational Trust Fund of the lottery, instead of the Environmental Trust portion of the lottery. This was money that was going to be taken or has been taken, and I would give some time to Senator Wehrbein, transferred to the General Fund, so what it really does, it really makes it a General Fund obligation. We don't believe that the current amendment, where it takes it out of the Environmental Trust, is appropriate. It hasn't had a hearing and I will take Senator Chambers' word for it. The Natural Resources Committee has had hearings on the lead abatement process and on the issue in Omaha, and I think that what he's trying to do is laudable. But with that, I would grant some time to Senator Wehrbein, if he'd like to talk about this issue.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, you have nine minutes if you care to use them all.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. All of a sudden, I got in the middle of a fight that I didn't want in. There is no money. We've taken all the money, on paper at this point, for the next two years out of the Educational Trust Fund. So this can be done. It just recognizes that this is going to be an impact on the General Fund ultimately. And I just want to put it in context, that's all I'm trying to do. This is probably a necessary thing, just like all the other two million, if I could exaggerate, two million other requests that we have. So, in essence, because we've transferred all the Educational Trust Fund money in our proposal, there is no money in there per se, except enough to finish the commitments that we had in the Educational Trust Fund for those grants. So that's the reality of it. I'm not sure how to handle this, whether it could be something done on Select and we can find some money. But you should know that we're spending 15 to 20 hours a day looking under every stone that we can for money for every other purpose. Had a meeting this morning in Senator Schrock's office on another issue, trying to find some money, so this is going on day after day after day. This is another \$300,000 for that