

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

March 5, 2004

LR 209

directed by the Legislature" means that the Legislature has ultimate control. But he went further and fell into error, as often happens when people depart from the position that I have taken. Senator Landis seems to be of the opinion that because the language directs where the money should go, at the same time it mandates how it should be spent, but that is not true. There is nothing in this bill that says if the money is transferred to the Education Innovation Fund, such money shall be spent only for educational purposes; as to the money directed into the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, such money shall be directed to environmental purposes only. None of that is in this bill. Senator Landis argued in the way that a desperate attorney will argue in attempting to zealously represent his client. He knows that the argument carries no water. He knows that he is coming to the thirsty with an empty bucket. But because he has agreed to take on the case, he has to do everything he can and leave no stone unturned in trying to defend an indefensible position. He is the perfect example of the one who dreams the impossible dream. He is the one who will try to fry the unfryable chicken, will try to bake the unbakeable bread. But when we bring those things into contact with grim reality, we know and he knows that failure, ultimate failure, in the sense of not being able to achieve his goal, is what awaits him as certainly as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. But even as poor a proposal as this one is, he deserves the opportunity to make his case and discuss it and have a decent or fair amount of time for doing that. I will not let my motion serve in effect of cutting off of debate by allowing it to go to a vote. Others may choose the course that they please, but once my promise has been given, I have an obligation to keep it even though Senator Landis, being magnanimous yesterday, stated that the motion that I put up there is a legitimate one; that if I choose to leave it there, I can. He even told me under the balcony that he would not be offended and gave every indication that what I had said I would do in terms of withdrawing the motion would be treated as though I hadn't made that promise. But as much as I think of Senator Landis, especially dressed as Johnny Cash, I've got to tell him, Senator Landis, when it comes to this, (singing) I keep a close watch on this heart of mine. So I have got to withdraw that motion, but in the same way that I left it up there for awhile yesterday in order to give people an