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LB 425

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, and at the time...you know, they tell a lawyer never to ask a question unless you know the answer. But is your position the same today? And I heard that you were talking; I was talking to somebody else. Where are you with the amendment?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, I think I've stated that I have to oppose the amendment because I'm afraid it sets a bad precedent, for all of those that would require restoration if we went back that way.

SENATOR BOURNE: So the precedent is more the iron claw of the Appropriations Committee rather than your objection to the state not funding this?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, I think we ought to consider changing the law if we're not going to reimburse.

SENATOR BOURNE: What...Senator Pederson, and again, it might...was this your bill that was the original, the original bill that caused this obligation to be created?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Actually, it was Senator Cudaback's bill and I prioritized it.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, Senator Cudaback's. There is an obligation. I guess I never understood why the state didn't pay this money. As I understood it, the Department of Corrections turned a certain amount of money back into the General File this year, and that money could have been turned over to the counties to fund this obligation.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Are you asking me, Senator Bourne?

SENATOR BOURNE: I am.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Okay. The statement was made by the Governor's office, the Governor, I guess, exactly himself, saying that we did not have sufficient money in Corrections at the time and, therefore, the bill was not going to be paid.