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

April 3, 2006 LR 259

SENATOR BOURNE: And can you tell me why, or what is the logic, or your logic, behind continuing to allow the Legislature to take money from the education component, which of course is our kids, versus the environmental component, which you're seeking to protect?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Sure. First of all, practically speaking, it would be extremely difficult to say you're going to protect this amorphous education aspect. With reference to the Environmental Trust Fund, there is a discrete, specific entity where the money resides and the purposes are set out specifically. When it comes to education, there is nothing that says for secondary, elementary, K through 12, or anything else, just the general statement or term "education." Now, if somebody wanted to try to put some specific language into the constitution and say it will go here or there so that we know what money is being...the areas of education where the money is directed, I would not object to that at all. I couldn't even come up with anything, though.

SENATOR BOURNE: That was my next question. I appreciate that. I was under the impression that we had a board set up already that will allocate these grants for educational monies. Are you aware of that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No. I'm not saying that it's not so, simply because I'm unaware of what they do.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. I'm going to...maybe the discussion...hopefully, the discussion will continue for a little while. I'm going to visit with Senator Raikes. But thank you, Senator Chambers. I do appreciate that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR BOURNE: As I mentioned on General File, I don't have any trouble with protecting the money that the lottery throws off, as long as we are consistent and we do it for all proceeds. And historically, we have, quite frankly, a couple members on the floor of the Legislature who are effective legislators and tend to protect the Environmental Trust Fund's money. And