

statute or if it is an appropriation as a practical matter because any given year 25 people could do it different. You know I would assume that once the level of funding reaches whatever level it does from the general fund, that normally those are continued. It is seldom as I have found out and all of us have found out painfully once a funding level is started there is no way to hardly ever to reduce it. So I do not think there is a concern about reduction but it may not grow as quickly as they have anticipated. Certainly it would be my intent with this amendment that no more than \$320,000 would be available this year and \$500,000 to Eppley. I mean that is a fact.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Well, I guess, Senator Warner, my experience has been by and large that the recommendations of the Appropriations Committee has a pretty strong impact on this body, and while I would agree that 25 votes can change that, I want to be fully assured that the Appropriations Committee is going to fully utilize their abilities and the availability of these funds for that specific purpose, and I have some concerns of removing earmarking and I, too, have had some difficulty with earmarking as you have in the past but I think this is so important that I just don't want to jeopardize it in any way. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol. Can we have order in the Chamber please. There is quite a rumble of conversation audible up here. (Gavel) Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I still would like to ask Senator Warner another question. I thought I had it straight. Now I am confused again but, Senator Warner, the funding for the Eppley Institute is \$1.7 million, is that the level we have established?

SENATOR WARNER: No. The Eppley Institute itself gets \$500,000 of appropriation which is what they are currently receiving since last year and that has not changed. Now if this is done we would take that \$500,000 from general fund and have it funded out of the cigarette tax. We are not going to fund it twice. But the...and the balance of the current funding is \$320,000 that we are currently doing which would also come out...it is now out of the general fund and it would also come out of the cigarette tax if you did not adopt my amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: So we are funding Eppley to the tune of \$820,000 now?