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LB 11

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay. That's okay.

SENATOR REUTZEL: I would....well, go ahead.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay. As to your argument, if we don't do it they're going to take something away from us. I remember very distinctly about three or four years ago, we had a helmet bill and I stood on this floor and I said, if we don't do this we're going to lose six million dollars of highway funds, and you know what, I was wrong. We passed the bill and it seemed to be okay. What happened? It was unconstitutional or something and they threw it out. We didn't pass another one and they are not withholding federal funds. I don't believe that they will withhold from the people because of what the Legislature does. I don't object to your program, Senator Reutzel. I was asked, and really the question I want to know is this, will you divert this to some other program with the Game and Parks Department other than the endangered species program? If you will, I will be happy to support your program, and I do not object to the Game and Parks Department getting this type of money if they'll take it to some other program.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Well Senator, I certainly can't speak for the Game and Parks. I think there has been a lot of emphasis on endangered species. The title...the full title of the act is nongame and endangered species. Now the reason for this, there's areas of habitat that could be obtained possibly. Some of the programs that they're looking at have nothing to do, in fact most of the programs have nothing to do with endangered species, but rather nongame.

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes. If...my question to you is, if your bill survives the kill motion, would you consider diverting the money to some other program other than endangered species?

SENATOR REUTZEL:(interruption) Senator Stoney.

SENATOR NICHOL: Just say yes or no you'll consider it.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Well I would consider it.

SENATOR NICHOL: Well I know you can't promise.

SENATOR REUTZEL: I would consider it, but I would just like to emphasize that I have no control over the species