

can solely use at this time. I was looking down my sheet here at some of the agencies that could have been saved from their cuts. And a lot of the smaller agencies, really we don't deal with that large of cuts, the education area, agriculture, health, labor, the advocacy agencies I don't think quite added up to all that much money. And I think there is general agreement that LB 835 will not, in fact, be instituted this year, and we can see an actual savings. I might also add that we will need this money in the future. I think that the budget itself, we are getting to a point where we are going to be needing every single dollar that we can. With that, I support the Schmit amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN PRESIDING

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I'd rise to oppose the motion, because what I hear everybody saying is if we reduce this 158,000 appropriation, which may not be needed, that we can then spend it for something else. If you leave it as it is, on June 30 the 158,000 will be lapsed to the General Fund and won't be spent at all. And you may want to consider not spending it at all and let it lapse to the General Fund next year rather than to use it now to be spent. That seems to me would be the choice that you ought to consider.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I oppose the amendment at this time. We spent a great deal of time, last year, debating LB 835. We've not tried to implement it. I do know that, in fact I think it is in court today. But eliminating this funding, I understand the Public Service Commission was asked this question, have you received this money or what have you done with it. They said that they had not touched the money. I think they do have the authority to use it wherever they see fit. But I object to this because of the fact that we don't know for sure when the court case will be settled, probably at least not for a couple of months, but we don't know that. And to take this money at this time, as Senator Warner says, it would only lapse back into the General Fund. I think that this is somewhat leading up to a very controversial bill and would probably help to kill the bill.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Smith, please.