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LB 991

placed an act which would be considered immoral by any standards. And we will talk on other occasions about values, about honesty, about ethics. Why do we need an ethics bill? Ethics has nothing to do with how we vote on this floor, or the priorities we set.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm glad I didn't take the time, waste the time to write a lighthearted little rhyme to say that the Legislature had worked very hard and we had struggled and we suffered, and although we are coming in on a chicken wing and a biscuit, we have nothing to be ashamed of, but the last deed placed by the Legislature is a cause for shame, in my opinion, and a very bad act placed after a hundred good acts can erase those that went before. And that's the way I view what has happened, obviously, others don't. But in these closing moments of the session, I have to show that as I started, I will end, and having said those things, I give the rest of the session to my ethical, filled with values colleagues, and I bid you...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...a fond adieu.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I want to clarify a few points. First of all, the bill did provide for money for a ten-year period, and the provisions for the ten-year period is still in the legislation. It is still in the statute. The 100,000 a year figure was taken out only because it doesn't really matter because you can't bind future Legislatures anyway. It was taken out as a matter of technicalities. It was very clear that \$100,000 a year, and maybe more if there was more, would be the base for this particular program. I don't think there is anybody who was in the Legislature at that time that would contest that and, obviously, the Appropriations Committee knew that, otherwise there would be no point to their restoring, they would never have restored the \$100,000 a year for the two years if they did not acknowledge that, and know that, and honor that. But I think what we are doing here today, if you do not restore this, is giving a very unusual and detrimental and dangerous message to the agencies. Are you going to say to them, well, if you