

textbooks is appropriated about eight months after the fiscal year, which means that the money would not be available until the '95-96 school year. So if we do nothing, we are going to be further in the hole with that program by the time we come back here next year. We were 88,000 short in '94-95, paying only about 65 cents on the dollar on this program. This program is a way of leveraging dollars. It is a commitment that we made a few years ago and which has been an excellent investment for the state. I think that this amount of money, if the Governor sees fit to do so, can be done without really affecting developmental disabilities. It is small enough that I think it really won't affect anything. I believe the budget can absorb it. I think the body might be well served to make a statement as we leave and do this small, small token which is fulfilling a past commitment that we haven't kept, and I would appreciate...I'd appreciate some support, and I will give the rest of my opening to Senator Hall, if he would like any time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The handout that you got, the memo, spells out what Senator Bromm was talking about in regard to the way the system works in the program. It is a program that basically has to be appropriated now for next year's cycle. It is appropriated in advance. The issue of the request far exceeding the money that was available does not even come close to being met with the \$50,000 that we put in. It was the \$50,000 for books for kids amendment, if you remember. Senator Bohlke just spoke of the teachers. We spent, we gave the teachers a million and a half dollars after the veto, basically. This is \$50,000 to buy some books that folks can use in the schools. Granted, they are not schools that are public schools, but they are students who are citizens of this state. Their parents pay taxes and they would have the ability through this program as they have. It served, I think, in excess of...well, I think we have been able to purchase/loan over 55,000 books in the few years it has been available. It is a tremendous program. This appropriation, if we override the veto, would bring it up to about \$210,000, roughly. It would still be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50,000 short of what the need is. It is a good program. It is one that I would like to see continue, and I am glad to have Senator Bromm take this issue. The proposal, as it is offered, is one that I think is very modest, and I believe that we can override this veto without having any impact on the other legislation that is