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This is not a new system. It's exactly the way we did it before. You better believe me that six months of disability and six months of no money coming in is more than a slight discomfort, more than a slight inconvenience. Now if Senator Dworak really believes that and his concern is that the savings that he has made for the counties and the state at one year of disability, hell, if that's good four years has got to be perfect because he can save four times as much. Then carry it to the extreme, let's not even have it at all. If a person is disabled, and there's at least a dozen cases that I can sight you on my desk, that's his tough luck; he should have known better than to have had a heartattack. He should have known better than to be in a car accident. How stupid can a person be to do those kind of things. Certainly the state ... we have no responsibility for that person. You know he could be the same kind of person we are, those of us who walked five miles to school bare-footed with cardboard in our shoes.

The issue here is that we had a six months disability, you had to be disabled for six months before you collected a penny. That's how you resolve the question that Senator Duis brought up. You just don't say it appears I'm going to be disabled for six months. I'm disabled now for two days. You go through that six month waiting period, then the feds will reimburse you for that cost, that's the way the system used to work.

I think it's a reasonable approach. I'm disappointed in Senator Dworak, like I have been before but at least he's consistent. He is consistent on this bill, consistently wrong, consistently not getting at the issue. I want to congratulate him on that. Senator Syas says that's one of the important things in this Legislature, to be consistent. Senator Dworak is.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. I've heard that consistency is the buggaboo of small minds. Be that as it may, I agree wholeheartedly with what Senator Lewis stated. In going him one better then just making people wait four years before they can receive disability, or taking them off the possibility of receiving it at all, why not fine them. The Legislature can create any kind of offense they want to. They can take any conduct that a person engages in and make it a crime. You may as well do that. When an issue like this is discussed only in terms of dollars then I think there is a total misunderstanding and misapprehension of what we're here for.

There will sometimes come a meritorious bill, such as this, where the Legislature at a very small expenditure of money can get the image of being compassionate. I don't believe that compassion is out of place in a legislative assembly. As a matter of fact, the people who represent people in a legislative assembly are supposed to be there due to their sensitivity, their compassion, their ability to understand other people hurting without necessarily hurting that way themselves.