

portion then Senator Chambers? So that...could I have your attention please? This matter will get confusing at voting time. Senator...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm dealing now with the portion that adds the new language relative to having applied to receive assistance under any of these other programs. I can be very brief. I do not think that any program that is legitimate and available according to the law for a person to try and make use of to obtain assistance should be handled in such a way that the person will be penalized for applying to that program. That is what the amendment, as it stands now will do. There is a penalty involved in applying for aid under a program, not improperly receiving assistance under it, and if they are worried about people being dishonest, I would like to ask Senator Dworak a question to help me understand this amendment and how it will prevent dishonest people from gaining the fruits of their dishonesty. Senator Dworak, you are concerned about people receiving two...receiving assistance from two sources when they are entitled to it from only one, is that correct? How are you going to know whether they have applied to any other source?

SENATOR DWORAK: The Commissioner would ask them this when they applied for unemployment compensation insurance.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Suppose that they would lie, and say that they had not applied.

SENATOR DWORAK: I suppose that they would not be found out.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OK, thank you. Members of the Legislature, all we can do with this provision is to create liars when people don't have to be liars. It does not insure that a person is not going to apply and then say that he or she has not applied. It will not prevent the person from applying and it will not prevent the person from obtaining compensation from two sources. I think that it is improper to penalize a person for trying to take advantage of provisions in the law, to obtain assistance. There is no way to know for certain where the assistance may come from or which one may be most advantageous. I think that in the same way a person going into business will shop around for a loan to get the best rate of interest or any other pay back conditions. A person who is in need of assistance should be allowed to analyze and evaluate all of the programs available because there is no guarantee that because you feel that you are qualified under one of these programs that in fact you will be. There are people who I felt because of a medical condition should get aid. Were given quite a lengthy run around. But there might be another type of assistance that they can obtain while waiting for a resolution under the first one which may be more advantageous. I'm opposed to the amendment and it will not accomplish what the introducers are saying that it will.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Were talking about that amendment which would give guidance to those people in the Department of Labor of what everybody on this floor is saying that you should not be paid twice. The present situation is that people are paid twice and an argument insues to get some of the money returned to somebody.