

there will not be any additional employees needed. I've checked with the agencies involved, and they claim there would not be. They have more than sufficient help to do the planning and design for contracts up to a hundred thousand dollars.

SENATOR COPE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is not a new proposal because as a member of the Government Committee in the past, we had similar measures come before the committee. I have a couple of reservations about this particular item, and I am wondering if Senator Labeledz could answer a couple questions for me, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Sure.

PRESIDENT: Will you respond, Senator Labeledz?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Labeledz, one reservation that I have is if we increase this amount, would agencies be in a position to establish a project and complete that on an incremental basis...a hundred thousand dollars at a time, say a five hundred thousand dollar project, which I consider a major project, could they do this? Is there any prohibition in the bill?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Well, this is theoretically possible, but why would an agency want to go to this bother and incur additional costs associated with several installments? I don't believe that they have done it in the past. In other words, it's been fifty thousand since 1969, and there has been no abuse of that. In other words, nobody has come across anyone taking a fifty thousand dollar contract and doing it six different times to make three hundred thousand. It has not been abused in the past when it remained at fifty thousand.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Labeledz, are there presently projects that agencies are wishing to complete that exceed the present statutory limit of fifty thousand dollars, which would facilitate them in making this increase to one hundred thousand?

SENATOR LABEDZ: No, none that I know of presently, but I