

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well let me ask you this then as a freshman. If the state would decide to put in this dental health plan, we would have the option of putting an amendment in, wouldn't we, that it wouldn't be mandatory for those who did not want to buy it?

SENATOR BURROWS: We certainly would.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Okay, thank you, Senator.

SENATOR BURROWS: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope and then Senator Rumery.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, this will be a fiscal impact later on if the program should be decided upon and we must remember that. It also is a fiscal impact on the employee and I certainly do think they should have the privilege of decision as to whether they want it, but the problem there is if other employees are getting half of it paid and they don't...they decide not to do it on their own, in a sense they are paying part of those employees who have gone along with the program. It is sort of like federal aid, if we don't take it, somebody else will get it so we better take it. I have mixed emotions on this. On the surface it sounds great but I would like to know what the fiscal impact would be if the decision was made to accept this plan.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Burrows a question if I might.

SENATOR BURROWS: Certainly.

SENATOR RUMERY: We have stamped across the top of this bill, "No Fiscal Impact." Is that quite a correct statement? As I read it I thought there would be some fiscal impact on the state treasury.

SENATOR BURROWS: Yes, that is correct. There is no fiscal impact because this does not provide the dental health care insurance. This provides the option to the state if the administration so desires to in the future make it part of the salary package and what I would like to bring out. It does not necessarily involve a fiscal impact in excess of what the salary situation would be because certainly in the administration or the Governor's side when they come to setting up a salary increase, that will be taken into consideration in total with the health benefits, the dental health insurance and undoubtedly a lesser amount of salary increase will