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LB 761

SENATOR WARNER: Obviously, that is the decision that the Exec Board would have to make. You know, I can only respond that historically that has not been necessary.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Because of the possibility that we might have to cut and everybody should be entitled to the same opportunity...

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I will try to speak again then and finish.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to introduce 40 exchange students. They are guests of Senator Beutler. They are from Kassel, Germany. Marlin Kaufman is their sponsor. They are in the North balcony. Would you stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Beutler is next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Lamb, if you could answer a couple of questions. I also am concerned about the proposed reductions in legislative staff. You commented earlier and gave us fair warning, and I appreciate that, that it may be necessary to change the policy to one and a half persons per Senator in terms of our individual staff help as opposed to the current two. Are you saying to us that if this cut goes into effect that you will recommend that the Executive Board do that at the beginning of the year? Are you saying to us that if it turns out that there is not enough money that you will change the policy or recommend a change in the policy to that effect? I guess it makes a difference to me if you are saying as a conservative matter in order to prepare for all eventualities I will at the beginning of this next fiscal year change the policy to one and a half persons as opposed to saying if it become necessary in that contingency you can expect some sort of policy reevaluation. What was your thinking in that regard?

SENATOR LAMB: Well, of course, I don't have all the numbers right here before me but I am thinking that we cannot continue staffing at the present level with this kind of a cut because we will just be running very, very close, and so if a few Senators should decide to be fully staffed, we just wouldn't have the money for it. So I am thinking that in all probability the Executive Board will have to look at this problem and make some policy changes which involve fewer staff people.