

money to apply across the board equality of opportunity in obtaining staff, then we shouldn't cut the money. If it is felt that we need at least two people, and I know I could use more than that, but if we feel that is what is needed and yet we provide less than the amount of money to accomplish that, then it is clear that everybody will not be entitled to two people. We can on a piece of paper divide employees into thirds, eighths and halves, but as a matter of fact, even the wisdom of Solomon would not let him take a sword and divide a living baby into two parts and each half continue to live independently of the other. We cannot, as a matter of fact, in the real world divide an employee into three people. So if three Senators are to have access to the services of one employee, how do you establish which one will have priority? I think we will create a lot of problems. There will be harder feelings than exist now. There are undercurrents in the very discussion we are having here today. So I don't think we should hastily run toward creating problems that we know are going to plague us for the rest of the interim and probably into the coming session next year. We ought not cut this money. The amount is not that large, so to leave it in the budget is not going to bust the budget, require a tax increase, or anything else. It is a token gesture to make it appear that the Legislature is tightening its belt so to speak, but when the amount of damage that it can cause would be considered, then it is not worth the cost. The price is too high and I, for one, will not support the reduction. I have not been one of those Senators who said we should bar people from traveling. I felt that each Senator should determine what kind of travel he or she should engage in. If somebody got so outlandish that it created a problem for the body as a whole, at that point something could be done to rein in that individual. But to regiment the Legislature, to take away flexibility, to deny the tools that are needed to do the job I think is to hurt ourselves. We should stop traveling cheap. We should stop trying to pitch and patch. We should stop trying to make do. We should decide once and for all that it is a very important function that we serve, that in order to do it properly we have to have the tools. To have the tools costs money. I am opposed to this amount being taken out of the budget, but because Senator Beutler has agreed to let me join him in an amendment to bring this provision back to reinstate this reduction, I don't have as much objection to voting for the entire package. But notice should be served that I will join Senator Beutler in trying to restore this amount of money.