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LB 761

about the job that the Legislature does, how hard it is, how important it is, and how the Legislature should be given consideration. Then the Legislature itself will say what it is doing is not worth a quarter, so take twelve and a half cents of the fifteen cents they are getting anyway. Well, I say again, each of us knows what we are worth but I have a question, a very direct question, that I would like to put...Senator Lamb is not here. Oh, here he is. Senator Lamb, here is the question that I would like to ask you. Will you guarantee me and would you guarantee Senator Beutler, since we are the ones apparently most concerned about this, that between now and January there is no possibility that we will have to reduce our staff? Will you give us two that guarantee since we are the only ones apparently really concerned?

SENATOR LAMB: Under which situation, Senator Chambers?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If this amendment fails and the \$200,000 reduction remains in place?

SENATOR LAMB: No guarantees.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you mean my staff may be cut between now and January?

SENATOR LAMB: I can't make a guarantee one way or the other at this point.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I don't want you to guarantee that it will be cut. That is not a guarantee. That is a threat. Members of the Legislature, I hope you can see what Senator Beutler and I are trying to get at. It is one thing to postulate the possibility that everything may turn out all right. It is like saying that you have a car and you have been told in the advertisements...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that you can get 30 miles a gallon. You have two gallons of gas left, you must travel 60 miles to get across the valley, Death Valley, which is desert area. If you don't make it you will die, you are going to trust the advertisement and take a chance. Most people won't do that. You want a cushion. Even when the state has to have a reserve, people debate about the amount of the cushion but they say something ought to be there. I think we ought to have an assurance that the staffing level that we have now will be maintained, so I hope you will vote in favor of the amendment that is up there now.