

do everything I could to try and see that not happen. Well, shortly after that action was taken change in administration occurred and a new Director came on board at Economic Development and I like Roger Christenson and I respect him and have known him a long time but he came into the situation and made promises for the last two years that the Telecommunications Division would eventually get the staffing and the action that the Legislature had thought it had directed to be taken on that. If you recall the handout I had about the adopted child, the Appropriations Committee talked about telecommunications as a child and Roger Christenson said he had adopted the child and promised to raise and nurture it. That was a year ago. For two years we went in that division without staffing, two years. If any of you have had a program that you wanted to see action on and went two years with funding made available, a mandate made in law and had no staffing or action taken on it, I think you would have the right to be angry about that. I think I have the right to be angry about that as well. And, in addition, besides not staffing that activity, money that was saved by not staffing was then diverted to cover the western Governor's office, a diversion that I understand in private was warned that there would be trouble with the Legislature, that the Legislature would not like that, that we had had trouble with the department before and we would be watching the department and when we found that they had done that we wouldn't be happy about it. And what I understand in private was said was, so what. So what. And it's that that really bothers me that there were public promises made and then private disregard for the Legislature in our oversight role. And I don't care whether you're talking about this bill or this issue or any issue but I think this Legislature has to be willing to stand up and fight when our policies and our priorities are ignored by the executive branch. I don't care who you are or what your efforts have been but I think, as a Legislature, we've got to kind of stick together on these things. And that's the reason I rise once again that it's not because of issues four and five years ago that continue to bother me, it's issues of last year and the year before that continue to bother me. And I'm afraid as we pass this bill...and I anticipate that we will, that again the message will be sent that if the Legislature says we want to see something happen, it isn't necessarily that we really mean it. And I don't think that's good for this Legislature and I don't think it's good for state government. And nobody's perfect. We all make mistakes. There are times we make promises we simply can't keep and we understand that. But I think when you assign