

better yet would be to have a study on it this...during this coming interim. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, did you wish to speak about the referring to a committee motion?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President, I appreciate that. Members of the Legislature, I would rise in support of the resolution and suggest that Senator Hannibal's motion to return to committee isn't the worst option. The worst option would be to kill it. But I think there is some sense, as Senator Hefner said, about looking at the issue and perhaps studying it further. But I think Senator McFarland is definitely raising an important issue. It does originate in one department, that being the Revenue Department, a department that has over the years become a real focal point of discontent, I guess, in many ways about policies and differences of positions and what have you. And it goes back to the early days when I was down here when, in fact, the Revenue Department was involved in shredding of documents dealing with revenue forecasting and that led to the establishment of a Revenue Forecasting Board to be independent and problems from time to time over tax policy and the Revenue Department seems to be involved in that. Of course, of late, the last few years the tax policy has been of great controversy in this state and, clearly, there is indications that the politicalization of the department is ever present in that individuals perhaps that have been more supportive of those policies than not have benefited from bonuses and the only way to know that is to let the public see those records. I think, clearly, the question is more generally bonuses and how to deal with bonus policy and there I come down on the side of more public disclosure. And the reason I do is that it makes a big difference how you provide bonuses to employees. If, in one instance, you provide those bonuses in the dark and in another you make them in the light of public scrutiny, in the dark you can give bonuses to friends, you can give bonuses for whatever whim or fancy you might have because there isn't really particularly any accountability. And, who knows, maybe that's what's happened but, in any event, you could suspect that that's the case. Whereas, bonuses made where there is some public accountability, some public record, would be made differently. There would have to be some standard, some reasoning that you could use to justify whatever bonuses are provided. And so I would...if I would make an error in judgment, it would be to err on the side of more public