

blatantly, as arrogantly, as carelessly as it occurred would indicate to me that the Director who was not a dumbbell, now he may be a fool because of what he did and the way he did it, but he's not a dumbbell, had to believe that there was some protection for him somewhere in the structure of those who control and govern this entire operation. You don't leave a paper trail. You don't involve a lot of people. The only time you do that is when you feel that you are safe in what you're doing and that you have nothing to worry about. So I think concern should be generated, not just because the thievery occurred but the manner in which it occurred and the involvement of so many other people, which would indicate that the Director thought that he had some protection somewhere. Maybe he began to spend early some money that he had been promised if he conducted business a certain way and he was going to pay it back before he got caught, but he got caught. And now we're not to mention it, to pretend that it didn't happen. That's what usually happens when big shots are involved with violating the law. They are cut from a different type of cloth. They're not to be judged the same way. If some employee around here whose job it is to sweep out these offices, vacuum the rugs, empty the wastebaskets, had broken into some senator's desk, we would be talking about it. If one of those people had broken into the pop machine downstairs and rifled it and taken the money, we would talk about it. Here's where an individual in a position of trust stole at least \$600,000 and it has nothing to do with what we, as legislators, are about when we're dealing with the very area that this individual operated in. I don't understand that. So I'm going to listen to this debate and I'm going to be instructed by those who obviously have more understanding than I have about what our duties as legislators should be. But I definitely intend to support Senator Morrissey's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There has been too much of US Ecology and others who work for them, whether on a payroll formally or not, dictating what the Legislature is going to do. Fortunately, there are people outside the Legislature, for example, in the Governor's office who see the process as one that was flawed, is flawed and needs some oversight. And I do think that what the former Director did is an indication of how carelessly and inappropriately the entire process has been handled, because when the head goes astray, as happened in this case, that is not an inadvertence. That is not a happenstance. That is something