

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Moore, if that is the way we proceed with all of government, then it's easy to see why we have reached the \$3 billion price tag for state government. I think it is unrealistic. I have high respect for the Department of Water Resources personnel. I know them personally, I know them very well, I've worked with them closely, but I do not believe that this is a realistic approach. Madam President, I ask your permission to withdraw the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: If there are no objections, it will be so ordered. Thank you. Are there further amendments on the desk, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Madam President, there are. The next amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Wesely. Senator, this is your amendment that you discussed briefly this morning. I do have an amendment to that amendment by Senator Moore. (See AM2001 on page 2361 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Moore, would you like to address your amendment?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, since we've already discussed the amendment, we'll go right to my amendment. This is the amendment that was pending yesterday that Senator Wesely had regarding the closure of Whitehall within the Department of Social Services. You remember at that time I got up and voiced my concerns about the precedent we were moving forward with as well as, quite honestly, questioning what the Department of Social Services Director was doing. I think instead of criticizing her, we should be working with her to try and help her do her job and her job, indeed, was to find cuts in the budget and instead of trying to attack her and say, you know, what it is you...trying to lock her in and trying to find ways to circumvent what she was trying to do, I'm sure you all read this morning's Lincoln paper where the headline read, "Amendment to Keep Whitehall Open", and I don't think that was Senator Wesely's intent necessarily, but that's what was said. My concern was yesterday and still is today that instead of backing up the director, we're really trying to attack her in many ways. Well, my amendment at least...I guess if you insist on putting some intent language in, in the bill, Senator Wesely, my amendment would make it at least livable, from my point of view.