

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Wesely, are you...is he in the Chamber? Okay. Senator Wesely, I wanted to ask a couple of questions if I may and, again, I hope the body listens a little bit to the questions because there is a lot of misinformation going out that is poor information to make decisions on issues such as this. Senator Wesely, assuming for a minute an assumption that I am unwilling necessarily to accept, and I'm not saying it's going to happen or it would happen, but assuming for a minute that the cafeteria closed. There have been statements made on this floor privately amongst senators that there would be no other place for rehabilitation training to take place. Is that correct? Are there other programs there now?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. The voc rehab programs are in place, and although there is a waiting list, you would be able to redirect into a different type of program for different type of training.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. So the argument then that there would be no training available for any of these people currently employed or that would in the future be employed is not necessarily a valid argument on its face value. Though many may have to wait for a while before they get in, the training would be available?

SENATOR WESELY: Right. And I think the Appropriations Committee put some money in it so they would create another program in another location.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Correct. Thank you, Senator Wesely. I wanted to emphasize that point, that the Appropriations Committee is very much in favor of vocational rehabilitation and that's one of the things that we did. We looked, are there other programs if the worst would come to be, which we did not want. We were hoping that the cafeteria would stay open in the areas of vocational rehabilitation, but in the eventuality as things happen, we wanted to make sure we put money in elsewhere to make sure that training would be available. So this is not an issue where people will not receive training. That is not an issue. It is also not an issue that the cafeteria would close, could close and there would be no cafeteria in the Statehouse.