

September 28, 1992 LB 14

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...we know that there's no way he would want to see somebody go forth and make substantive changes without information, without knowledge. I've sat on the Executive Board with him, and I've listened to some of the questions that he will ask. He wants to be better informed, and he certainly wants to be sure that those who are going to get contracts with the state are informed enough to do what that contract is paying them to do. Yet when it comes to this change, no knowledge is necessary, no savings shown, no cut in expenditure, no assurance of any duplication being eliminated, or whether there even is any, but because the Governor asked us to do it that's sufficient basis. I disagree and we ought not do this. That's why I offered the motion to reconsider. We ought to leave the Department of Personnel a free-standing department, and that should be the case...

SENATOR CONWAY: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...until we can be shown a compelling reason to change it.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There are no other lights on. Would you like to close? There is another light on, it's you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. We have a responsibility as legislators. When we talk to young people and civic groups I'm sure we don't go before them and say we don't have information about subjects we vote on, but the Governor asks us to vote and we do it. I'll tell you what we're more likely to say, we're given all kinds of recommendations and proposals from people throughout the society, some are politicians, some ordinary citizens, some representing special interest groups. What we do is take those proposals, we evaluate them and the ones that seem to have validity we support, those that don't, we don't support. That's what we're likely to say. But when we come into the Legislature, which for us is the real world, which is the universe in which we operate, all of that goes out the window and the reality is that precious little independent thinking occurs here on many issues. On this I think there is practically no independent thinking occurred. So, after the special session ends, whenever that is, if LB 14 is passed and you have abolished the Department of Personnel, then you will try to give the impression that something great and special was