

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bohlke, was there a round table established composed of business persons and perhaps others whose job it was to comply with this provision that I'm talking about with reference to the jobs?

SENATOR BOHLKE: There was a round table established. There was another Department of Labor that was supposed to do the study and bring it back to the round table.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now has this information that is contained in lines 26-28, on page 11, and line 1 on page 12, has that information been provided to the Legislature?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Not exactly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, last year I had said and others did too, that some of these things that are now being stricken were put into the bill by way of a hoax to make people think that those who supported LB 1224, or whatever it was, were operating in good faith. They were supposed to get the information on these items which we were told and we all agreed would be essential to the successful implementation of what has been called welfare reform. The most important aspect had to do with jobs because the central philosophy is that you move people off welfare into employment. So the centerpiece of the welfare reform package was to be the jobs. There is information that the statutes said would have to be given to us before approval of these exemptions or waivers would be placed before us. Since they broke faith with us on that, did not deliver, they're asking us to eliminate from the statute that requirement. That, to me, shows there was dishonest from the very beginning. The Governor was in a position to monitor this activity because it's the bill that he wanted. This shows the greatest lack of good faith, the greatest degree of dishonesty and the proof that failure i. built into this thing and I mean failure in the sense of being able to help people get off welfare by virtue of obtaining meaningful employment. If this stayed in place in the law, the exemption or waiver could not be approved by us, but, by striking this, no jobs have to be available, but after two years the people are still thrown off assistance. They are still thrown off assistance. Nobody can assure us that job opportunities are there. What Mr...what the Governor wanted was a waiver that would allow us to require people to travel a total