

to approve this recommendation so that's why I just wanted it for the record. It wasn't to do anything to defeat the bill but only to bring into light what would actually happen. With that, thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I might come to this issue from a little different point of view or give a little information that might help you understand why the Appropriations Committee has spent so much time on this particular issue. We have been at this for two or three months, and at the hearing that...we had a special hearing with the personnel department because the state employees, themselves, were concerned on two levels. In the first place, they were not getting their...the raise that was in the signed contract. The agencies were supposed to give 3 percent. The Governor put 3 percent in his budget and then the agencies were supposed to find the 4 and 3.5 percent, the other 1 percent for this year and a half percent for next year. That's one of the reasons I had a lot of state employees call me. For two years, I've had calls from state employees who are very...were very concerned about the use of temporaries. Temporaries are not anything new in state government. This has been going on for years and years and years. The Revenue Department seasonal, they use temporaries. The Roads Department, Game and Parks, and most of it is legitimate use and it is monitored and used in a sensible way to overcome seasonal needs. But one of the things that disturbs me in particular in the last two or three years, the use of it has been as...temporaries have been used as a guise to saving money. I don't think it does save money. It saves the benefits perhaps, but they still have to get the work done. And one of the things I said at the hearing was we criticize companies like McDonald's and the fast-food places for hiring part-time and temporary people in order not to have to pay benefits, so here is the state not giving a good example. But the most telling testimony that we had the evening of the hearing, we had it in the evening so state employees could come without having to take leave, a young man from the regional center here in Lincoln, if you've read this morning's newspaper, they are...there is a lot of concern at the Lincoln Regional Center as to how it's being run, as to how the patients are being treated and whether or not things are being done well. But this young man said that they had too many temporaries coming in to work on the wards and the point he was making, and