

code agencies will analyze in writing whether or not the work could be done well and cost effectively by permanent state employees. Further in the intent, it says upon request applicable union representatives will have full access to the agency analysis...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...and cost estimates. It goes on, it is not the intent of the state to replace current state employee jobs with new service contracts, SOS, or other additional temporary employees in an arbitrary fashion. Goes on to talk about the reporting that will be done as a result of this letter of intent and it says further that departments which have historically hired seasonal temporary employees shall be exempt from this letter which I think everybody agrees with is appropriate. So in this dialogue I hope everybody advances LB 889. There have been some very positive steps taken as a result of the work of the committee and of DAS and I thought it was important to put that on the record. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Beutler followed by Senator Chambers and Brown.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem and members of the Legislature, as I was going door to door in the last campaign, I heard about this situation from a number of my constituents. All my information is anecdotal and I don't want to represent that I know a whole lot about one side or the other of this particular question. However, I know enough to ask some questions I think and I know enough that it concerns my constituents enough that this matter is going to be followed more closely by a number of us in the future. I want to go back and ask Senator Wehrbein, in the first instance, I always have a negative feeling about deficit appropriations, period. And we all know that from time to time things happen that are unexpected acts of God, for example, floods, the emergency, Governor's emergency fund needs more money. Those are deficit appropriations. We do that. But what I'm concerned about is how this came about. This was not an act of God. There was a fund limitation there and I guess, Senator Wehrbein, my question is what happened? Why is this a deficit appropriation situation? If you wanted to use additional temporary workers, then it seems to me that what should have happened is that the Governor's budget should have come in with a proposed increase in that category and it should