

have been approved in advance and thereby the Appropriations Committee would have had an opportunity to review the policy in advance. But instead, we're suddenly faced with a fait accompli and do we approve it or don't we approve it? And we all know we're going to end up approving it. But I'm not sure if somewhere along the line a lesson shouldn't be taught to people doing this sort of thing if, in fact, this situation could have been avoided and maybe I'm going too far already. Can you tell me why this is a deficit appropriation situation? Wasn't there a clear appropriation to DAS for SOS services? And if so, why was that limitation ignored?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and Senator Beutler, the answer is this was just brought to our attention. I would say that it was an oversight of the personnel director who did not catch probably early enough in the process that there was an increasing use of temporaries and it had gone beyond the spending authority. Once again, I'll reiterate, this is not a dollar appropriation, this is a spending authority deficit within the revolving fund that pays these particular personnel. But it was not caught early enough in this year. It was just caught about, well, time gets away but two or three weeks ago that there was not going to be enough spending authority left in this budget to continue to pay the personnel under this program.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It went seven hundred and some thousand over before they caught it.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's true.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. You know, what makes me a little skeptical about that representation of the facts, is it also true, Senator, that with regard to replacing workers who are...who for one reason or another leave the various agencies that the Governor has a policy that they should not be automatically replaced, is that true?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: There is a hiring freeze, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: There is a hiring freeze. And how is the executive branch dealing with the question of how workers who have been heretofore...