

policy would have been before us and we would have said, no, this is too great a use of temporaries in view of a supposed freeze on employment. That was not done. They behave in the way Senator Beutler mentioned. The agency heads go out and do it and the Governor can blame them. Then the Legislature is hit with it cold. The Legislature was not informed along the way that these temps are being hired, not enough money was requested in the Governor's budget and a deficit appropriation would be needed. The Governor and every member of this body and especially the Appropriations Committee members know that under the Constitution no money can be spent from the General Fund without a specific appropriation. We, as the Legislature, have that power. It's being taken from us by the executive and the Appropriations Committee and others are going along with it. They incur these costs. Then they come to us and they say you better make the appropriation and they've got us. They know we had better make it. So we are not initiating an appropriation. We're not controlling the purse strings. We are rubber stamping prior spending by the Governor's division and then we're forced to pick up the tab and the Legislature, by a majority vote, are going to go along with it because they say we have no choice. Yes, we do. The Constitution gave us not just a choice but the absolute prerogative when it comes to appropriating. We are the only ones who can appropriate money from the General Fund. But they are forcing it and I'm going to touch on something else. Now that some of you have been persuaded that you ought to support the Maximus contract, they're going to do the same thing again. They're not going to tell you how much they may have to pay these people, but then they're going to come in later and say, well, they did more for us than we thought so now you've got to come in with a deficit appropriation and it was never discussed in terms of a policy which the Legislature may approve of or may not. I want to ask Senator Wehrbein a question if I may.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, was the Appropriations Committee consulted along the way by the Governor's office, meaning DAS, with reference to the need to have this additional money for these additional temps that they had hired? Had you all been kept abreast of this development along the way?