

would need an approp...deficit?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I really do not know that time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it possible they could have known in January?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I would assume they could have known in January if there was close monitoring of that program, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Did they say they did not know in January?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I don't think that question was asked but apparently they didn't or it wouldn't have gone this long.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Apparently they didn't know in January? Are you aware that the...let me ask it a different way. Do you see the budgeting process used by a Governor, to keep it general, can be used in such a way that the budget itself is a political document? Do you think a budget can be, in and of itself, a political document?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it's possible to do manipulations to the point that it could be considered political, yes. I'm not going to...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think somebody building a budget during times when the public is opposed to governmental spending would like to make it appear that less is being spent than really may be spent if that can be done?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It would certainly be a temptation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would this type of activity soften the impact of the Governor's budget by this amount not being included?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It's possible.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And by this issue which has turned out to be volatile, not being addressed in the Governor's budget, does that also soften the impact of that budget?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, it's possible.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now this has become an issue before the