

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, obviously I do not want this struck and I would oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. I just simply want to say as we talked about surprises and I have learned early on and I've stated many times and restated and restated in this particular case two or three times the Appropriations Committee as well as the Legislature does not like surprises. And I have stated this quite emphatically to several agency heads in the last few weeks just as Senator Chambers reiterated. I remember learning that at Senator Warner's knee many years ago, surprises are what catches us all, state government level. I do not like surprises in my own business and so this is one of those areas where I feel that we had to come to the Legislature with this particular bill. That is the reason for the bill. It doesn't necessarily mean we like it. It is simply a fact that it is the least disruptive from my viewpoint and the Appropriations Committee to the workplace, to those workers that are out there working in good faith, doing their job as they are supposed to be doing it, and that this is the fairest way to resolve the situation at this point, may not be the one we like. But it is the one that better serves I believe at this point the workers and the state. It is only until the end of this fiscal year. Then next year we will start back with the, what you might call the original authority to spend. We will be monitoring that program, the personnel director will be monitoring that program much more. There are steps being taken for reporting for much closer understanding of this, much more detailed understanding of this and that is a lesson I believe we can learn from this. And I just simply wanted to state that for the record and that we, too, as Appropriations members do not like surprises, probably even less because I think we might get more.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, members, a lot of words being tossed around here and a lot of accusations and I'd just like to find out for sure if I'm understanding what I'm hearing. Senator Wehrbein, would you answer a question, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, Senator Chambers says...ask