

issue and I have that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, thank you. That will give me food for thought.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm going to try again to make some of the points clear that I'm interested in having in the record. If the Appropriations Committee had been made aware in January of the wide-scale use of temporary workers, they could have indicated, well, the Governor would have made a request at that time and drawn attention to it and it might have been an issue. And on a policy basis, the Appropriations Committee may have said, no, we're not going to authorize the use of these temps at this level. I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, did you hear what I just said?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Is it possible that if this whole issue had been laid before the Appropriations Committee in January or whenever the budget first comes to your attention, and when I say you I meant the committee, that the committee could have made a determination from the standpoint of policy to disapprove this wide a scale use of temporary employees?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: We could have had more input. It might not have been totally disapproval but we could have perhaps done something, say it was in January, making the assumption we knew it in January when we came back when typically we do get some deficits. And if you remember, I had one up here January 25. If we'd have had it that early, chances are it would have been something less than 750, whether it would have totally wiped out, I do not know. Whether it had gone to zero, I wouldn't say. But it could have been something less because there would have been more wiggle room so to speak.