

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Brashear, I listened very carefully to what you said and I'd like to ask you a couple of questions based on that. With all of the work that the committee did, the quality of which I don't think has been challenged by anybody, even me, I'm after them on Maximus. But I want to ask you this question. You feel that with what the committee has done, we can never be confronted by another situation like this where a deficit appropriation will be sought in connection with temporary workers. Is that what you are guaranteeing here?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: No, Senator Chambers, I was watching one morning on the monitor when you asked that question of another member of the Appropriations Committee and I'd say, no, I couldn't make that guarantee. What I can guarantee is that with the diligence of this, your committee, we will endeavor to expose it in each and every instance where it does occur.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I know you will expose it. In fact, I'm thinking about calling you all the muckrakers because you did do a good job on that and I'm not discounting that. If it does...first of all, it can happen again, right?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Certainly. You know better than anybody how it all works.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now if it does happen again, are you going to lead the charge against another deficit appropriation and every other one like this? That's what I need to get from you all.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, I think I would, but with regard...it would depend upon timing and with regard to the human lives involved. These people are working in government. They are doing jobs. I don't think either you or I or anybody else wants to beat up on the people who are doing the jobs.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I don't want people to be used as pawns. So are you really telling me that if the executive branch is cagey enough to work some people into a position where they are entitled to pay but they have overspent and knew they would overspend, you would then come in and say in order not to hurt the workers, we give the deficit appropriation. That's basically what you're telling me, isn't it?