

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, yes, I think we have an obligation. You could characterize it legal, moral. You could characterize it lots of ways, but when people are working and are reasonably expecting that they are going to be employed and they are going to be paid in the near term foreseeable future, I think we have to respect those obligations and then deal with those who are responsible for the failure to have done it otherwise.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So what we really are doing is presenting a road map to executive department agencies as to how they can overspend and get us to, force us to approve a deficit appropriation. Put the employees out there as the ones who will be victimized, then we have no choice other than to make the appropriation for the sake of the employees. Isn't that where we would be once again as we are today?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I respectfully disagree, Senator. I think the publicity that has surrounded this, the bright light which you have caused to shine upon it here upon the floor, the whole process, I think they'd try some other methodology than to knowingly, willfully, intentionally subject themselves to this process to get three-quarters of a million dollars.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I wrote a rhyme one time that said, flattery is like perfume, you sniff but never swallow it. Senator Brashear, if we did get in this situation again, you would feel constrained to give the same argument now in behalf of a deficit appropriation, wouldn't you? You would be saying, for the workers I'm doing it. In other words, you don't have any way to stop this from happening again, do you, short of abolishing that SOS program?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, in the process of this entire thing we arrived at a new...a new contract was arrived at. You determine what the motivation was which put in writing for the first time between those groups which represent state employees and the Department of Administrative Services...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...how all of this would be governed. So I think there was a great deal of progress made just because of the moment. I assume we could do some legislating in the interim. I don't think we'd just have to sit here and wait forever until it occurs again, if it does.