

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, that's part of it, but also they needed really the full authority.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I will be very brief. Senator Wehrbein, I want to ask you a question which you may not be able to answer but I had talked about the problem I have with the state hiring temporary employees, not giving them any benefits. Do you have any idea what it would cost to have a program that would at least provide health care insurance for anybody who is going to be employed at least a year with the state?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it would vary on the circumstances. What is a health insurance policy now, three to four hundred dollars per month per year, so...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't know, I've never had it.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Oh, 5,000 a year. That would be about 400 a month for health insurance.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. members of the Legislature, part of my problem with all of this in addition to the way we're being put in this position and forced to act whether we want to or not is the treatment of these people called temporary employees. Senator Abboud did touch on something that was in my mind when we talk about a hiring freeze. We don't mean we're not going to hire people. You just give it a different name, you put yourself in a position to exploit those who are to be hired and then you can take credit wherever credit is garnered from by saying, I've imposed a hiring freeze. You have hundreds, literally hundreds of private engineers hired by the Roads Department. The roads program is untouchable. If they want 1,000 engineers, they can get them. So maybe that wasn't a good example. But all of these other agencies hiring all of