

May 2, 1995

LB 592A, 592

sarcastic when we were discussing this bill, and mentioned that they have such nitwits and dummies over that at the Department of Social Services, they will have to hire consultants to have to tell them how to administer this bill, and from my information, they had a consultant out there that day, while I was saying it DSS had a consultant on LB 592 right out there then. We have to take this bull by the horns and create some accountability and responsibility. But since it seems the body this year is of a mind to squander millions of dollars in contingent fees, to have a consultant for this, for that, for the other, to not be outraged as I am when the head of the Health Department hires a man and gives him a quarter of a million dollars in consultant fees, after he was fired by the department in which his wife worked, which is the Department of Social Services. And he worked under her direction in, of all things, child support collection. Now you have a bill dealing with child support collection. If somebody is so incompetent that the incompetent Department of Social Services will fire him because he is incompetent, how can you justify the Director of the Department of Health in hiring that person and squandering a quarter of a million dollars on his so-called consulting work. No specific recommendations, general statements like improvements in communication, doing away with overlapping, making people feel good about themselves and what they are doing. Why you all ought to give me a million dollars because I do that for your every day, but I don't charge you. That's a part of my job. So I want this amendment adopted. We know that the Department of Social Services is shot through with employees who don't know how to do their job. That is why Maximus was hired; because people in the department don't have the expertise to keep tabs on the programs they administer. If you have a situation where a person is dealing with foster care, and if the state's employees were attentive, instead of paying money out of the General Fund, there is federal money available, which could cover that, and the people are too dumb over there to get it, so they hired Maximus to tell them things that people with foster care told them, and we're going to pass a bill as broad in its sweep as LB 592 without doing what we know needs to be done. Why that is the height of irresponsibility. We know that the people in the Department of Social Services lack the knowledge, lack the expertise to carry out the requirements of LB 592. Senator Lindsay told me \$500,000 is not enough. I feel it is enough as a start, and we know that deficit appropriations are available, Senator Wehrbein, and we know there will be no reluctance or hesitancy about coming over here for one. And in