

May 2, 1995

LB 592A, 592

to. Are you telling me you believe they will not hire consultants for that purpose? I am just asking for your belief.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I should think they should...will not, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You should think...okay. Thank you.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I hope they get the message, that's what I guess I am saying.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand, Senator Wehrbein. That's why I am not going to badger you because I am trying to make a point with this amendment, but I am going to carry it to a vote. I am going to ask for a roll call vote because I want a record on this vote, on this issue. It is one which I think we need to consider. It does not go directly to any of the issues contained in Senator Day's bill, in chief, which is LB 592, but it goes to the way DSS has been doing business. There are other agencies, I believe one of the reasons that the SOS program had an overrun is because the Department of Health was hiring so many temps. They may have been over \$800,000 in temps. Senator Wehrbein, I would like to ask you a question. Are you aware...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...are you aware of a dollar amount that the Department of Health may have expended on temporaries?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I don't have it with me. We have the figure. I do not have it up here with me.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it several hundreds of thousands of dollars?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: This would be dangerous to say. I think it is between three and four hundred thousand, as I recall.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. So there are agencies spending a lot of money on temporary employees. There is a lot that needs to be looked at. You know what, you all are going to hope that I'll go back to sleep on budget bills, on tax matters, and just let these things rock along and not be questioned or analyzed by me. In the past, I haven't done it. There have been enough