

then we expect there not to be problems, to me is not based on what the facts would seem to indicate. So I will see if anybody else has their light on and if not, I will pull this.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Madam President and members, I'm going to follow up on Senator Chambers' remarks and I'd like to help to answer some questions if Senator Wehrbein would yield to a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Wehrbein, I appreciate your frank and open discussion about this issue on Select File as well as conversations that we had after the bill was advanced. My question in follow-up to Senator Chambers' request is, first off, do we still have a hiring freeze in the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay. Now will, because of changes that the committee has taken, will we be facing the deficit appropriation in this manner next year?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: You never say never. I would say it would be doubtful that we would. We want to look at this as...I mean frankly, we're looking at the issues in a study. What is a reasonable amount of temporaries to be hired? We have some figures that we want to look at based on other places, private sector and others, so that we know what is an appropriate use of temporaries, simply some guidelines. All of those facts and figures we want to collect so we have a decision that we can make in our discussions next session. And so I would...what that conclusion will be, I don't know, so I can't absolutely say that we couldn't have...we probably would not have a deficit. Chances are if we were to have an increase, if there was appropriate reason to have an increase we could put it in the next year's budget bill saying that this authority would be increased. Now technically that would not be a deficit. You might consider it that because we didn't have it high enough authority to spend, but...so it might be a play on words.