

there may be other activities and other duties that are assigned to the employees over there whose job it is ostensibly to do these reviews. The agency is so large, it is so diverse in what it does and I would say authority is so diffused throughout the agency that it's hard to get a handle on it. In fact DSS, as an agency, is like a jellyfish, except that...oh, Senator Dierks, you were right, a bacteria is a plant or one-cell plant, you're absolutely and totally correct. I was thinking of a virus which shows traits of living and nonliving creatures. But anyway I wanted to point out that you're absolutely right on that. And he made me think of this point, I shouldn't put the two together, I thought of it anyway. DSS is like a huge jellyfish without a definite shape. When it's in the water, the water gives it a shape. It has those tentacles which hang down from the jellyfish. But the one that I'm envisioning as an analogy to the Department of Social Services is one with tentacles made of the same jelly-like substance of which its corpus consists, which means you can't get a hold on it. And whoever goes over there as the director or "directress", as the case may be, other than myself, which it won't be, is going to be engulfed and consumed by that department. That agency will run the director. The director will never run that agency. People come down there with fire in their belly, a gleam in their eye and a crusading intent to make things right, and before you know it all the life has been sucked out of them. They become a mere shell of what they were and people who knew them before they went there recognize them no longer. It's something like that concept of the zombie where a living person dies, comes back alive, and although there might be enough traits left for you to recognize a resemblance between this walking dead creature and the one that you formerly knew as a fully living human being, it is not the same, something is missing. And as long as DSS exists as it does, functions in the way that it does you're going to have individuals over there who were present when a new director comes. And to give another analogy, I see them something like a many-tentacled parasite that mixes all of its tentacles among the vital organs of whoever comes over there and drains the life out of them. If the director is not the one on whom this leach will attach itself...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then the department itself is. And in order, in order to save the department you must kill the parasite. Some people over there feel that you cannot kill the