

that they need to be properly structured but I do at the same time share Senator Chambers' concern that perhaps the structure of this particular contract might not have been, in retrospect at least, in the best interests of the State of Nebraska to maximize the use of our funds. Certainly though, I think that the intent behind the establishment of a contract like this, which is to secure money that may not be otherwise available to the state, is a good intent and it's something that I think the Governor is to be commended for that, certainly to the extent that he had input into the establishment of a contract of this type. But with those few comments I would...I think this is a beneficial discussion that we're having and I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers, you have three and a half minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Will. Madam President and members of the Legislature, maybe not everybody will be involved in the actual discussion as far as participating but I hope that you will listen because policy decisions and determinations will be made. I want to make it clear that I wish I could say I had an inside track and ferreted out the existence of this contract on my own, but I didn't. I read about it in the newspaper. Some nosy reporter digging around in state affairs unearthed a multimillion dollar contract providing for a finder's fee and it was signed by an employee, not a director, not an official of the Governor's administration. This is one time the reporter did an excellent job so he can take some credit for what is going forth today. But in getting down to what Senator Beutler is dealing with, I don't want to be restricted to his proposal in terms of how you're going to allow these types of contracts if the body thinks they're in the best interest of the public which I don't. But we already, I'm saying now, have in place a system whereby the university comes before the Legislative Executive Board to present to us money they propose to spend from certain funds over there for renovation or other things they're going to do with buildings. We already do that. The university is a part of the executive branch of government. We know that. The Legislature needs some oversight. Some of these contracts may wind up in the necessity of appropriations. To give Maximus some money, they're going to have to do something to get that money to Maximus because Maximus cannot take the money from the federal money that comes here. They cannot deduct that money. They have to turn the money over to the