

not, in fact, experts.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, the reason I asked the question is because it appears that these people are able to find dollars that were not retained or were not acquired by the state when these certain claims were processed and these individuals apparently who are hired were able to somehow go through this maze of paperwork and come up with those dollars that we should have had in the first place. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I suppose you will hear different opinions on that but for myself I'm very disappointed that our bureaucracies are not oriented towards or do not have a firm handle on available assistance from the federal government, and I would think that the experience of this case would prompt the Governor and all the agency heads to be sure that they have somebody in the agency who's acutely aware of everything that is going on...(interruption)

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, long term I don't disagree with you but I guess in the short term that hasn't happened and I guess what I'm trying to get at, I guess I have a feeling that these people must have had expertise that we don't have or didn't have at the time is partly the reason why these people were brought on board to help assist and it's kind of like getting an expert when you go to the medical field that knows more about your particular case than maybe somebody else and so that's why you turned it in. Isn't that right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Apparently, Senator, yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, the question then comes down to, is this a good deal or isn't it? And the other question that I have that keeps bothering me all the time, had we not hired them on a contingency fee, had we hired them on a fee basis, what is your judgment as to what the cost would have been? Would it have been higher or lower than what we're actually doing at the 9 percent or whatever we're paying? Do you have any idea?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, honestly, I have no idea. I do not have enough experience in that area to make a judgment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, the reason I brought the question up is I, you know, several evenings I listened to the trial taking place out in California and I see where they're talking about