

millions of dollars being spent for experts who are considered experts in their field and they're not working on a contingency fee, they're working on a fee basis. I mean they're not working on a contingency basis, they're working on a fee basis, and since they are considered to be experts, apparently it's costing millions and millions of dollars in order to get their expertise presented before the court. Isn't that true?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah. Well, I think generally speaking contingent fees are used where there is a significant likelihood that you will get nothing at all and the contingent fee is generally higher because the loss could be higher.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, isn't it a fact then...

SENATOR BEUTLER: So if you know you're going to get something, if you know there is a...if you have certitude that there's benefit to be gained that will be greater than the cost of gaining it, that is paying somebody to research it for you...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I think generally speaking you would be better off to pay a fee to hire somebody to do it.

SENATOR VRTISKA: On the basis of the way these people were hired, I guess the point that I'm trying to get at, do you think these people had enough knowledge to know about what amount of money was out there or were they just taking a shot in the dark as to the amount of money that they were going to gain by the amount of money they would...putting on the basis of cost/benefit basis, do you think that they had some idea that they were going to get X many dollars or they were just taking a chance?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I really don't know. I don't know what they knew about Nebraska's situation or I mean I'm sure they were very much aware of all the federal programs and what was available. I don't suppose it took them a whole lot of research to figure out what Nebraska was benefitting from and what they weren't benefitting from but that's only speculation and I...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, what it all boils down to, we're all speculating. I guess that's what happened and I understand the reason this thing moved the way it did is it was a sort of a