

that set up a process for consultant contracts that provide oversight by the Legislature and the public through LB 180 which is a bill that Senator Warner has dealing with private contracts, that's out on the floor of the Legislature. LB 322 is a bill that the Appropriations Committee had last year. These are ideas that we ought to be considering that can set up a system where we have some better checks and balances than we have now to deal with the problems that are now being identified with this particular issue. Point number five, I think contingency fee contracts are basically a problem. They make me very uncomfortable. I know that we did it with the child support collection, I didn't like that. We did it with Maximus and I haven't liked that, but in my view in extreme circumstances, they probably can make sense. My view is that perhaps, point number six I want to make, is that this is such an extreme circumstance, that I believe that the federal government will be capping federal funding, that they will be doing it in the very near future, that if we do not move fast we will lose our place in line and we will forevermore be locked into a situation where what we receive back from the federal government is less than these other states that move forward. And if that's fine with Senator Witek to throw the money to the federal government and have it throw it out to the other states and not have it come back home, that's fine if she wants to take that position. It's not the position I take. I suggest that we work to get our federal dollars back home in Nebraska and do it as soon as we can before the caps come into place and force us into a long-term situation where we'll lose ground. Now in my view the solution to the problem, despite the fact that the Maximus contract was not handled the way I like, is not the circumstances I'd like to be in right now, nevertheless in my view, we need to, because of the time constraints, move forward and bring in the money that we can, get ourselves in a position for the future when the decisions are made to cap federal funding, that we're not left at a low person on the totem pole and that we end up to learn from the experience...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...and use Senator Chambers' efforts now with this legislation to set up a system for the future where consultants and contracting have a review process by the Legislature and the public, that we have a chance to intervene before we get commitments made and that we have a chance to head off problems like this in the future. That's what I see. Using