

aiming at, and I am not trying to be argumentative either at this point, nor am I disagreeing with anything you've said, but when we see departments of the State of Nebraska, such as the Department of Education, of Labor, Economic Development, Revenue, Social Services, the Governor would direct those departments to participate, is that true, or would he leave it up to the discretion of the department heads as to whether they'd cooperate?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, you've hit upon exactly the problem. The Governor, these are all...well, the Education is not a code agency, but the other ones are, but, frankly, they did not get the cooperation, I think primarily the people point to the Department of Labor, that they should have had last time. So though the Governor may say you shall participate and you shall do this, it doesn't mean that it shall get done. At least evidence of last year would tell us that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If it's essential that these state departments partici...first of all, do you think it is essential that these state departments participate?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, I think part of the reason we have the different state agencies and the higher education is to say they've all got a role to play in welfare reform. If we are ever going to get the job done and provide good training and education and job skills and services for low-income people so they can move off of welfare into the work force, all of these players have to be at the table, and so having not just...the welfare issue is not just a Social Services issue, it is something that affects most of state government in terms of different agencies. So I do think having them participate is important.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Should we put mandatory language in the statute then requiring the University of Nebraska and every state agency and department listed on here, whether they are a code agency or not, should we put mandatory language so that they shall participate, or leave it where they may, if they choose to, but they may not, if they choose not to?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, as I said, there is a number of "shalls" in here. When we list out the higher education and the state agencies, they shall analyze the job needs and training needs of business, industry and labor, and then it goes on to say that