

the bill to Select File. I think Senator Avery has spent a lot of time, and Senator Day has a lot of people, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I haven't spent that much time because when you're on appropriations you can't get to a lot of extra meetings. But I did participate during the summer. One thing I will still resist is turning it into a code agency, and I've stated my views about that before, that I think this board needs to keep its independence, it needs to keep its independence. Now the people that I talked to and listened to are the people that I say are in the business, and those are the foster parents who, over the years, 30 years and more, have had foster children, have done well by them. I've listened to one woman in particular who will tell me about a young man she... a young high school boy that came to her home not long ago. He'd been in 15 different homes. That is not what I... you can't spell stability that way. So I do think the system needs to be corrected and made better. Bringing some people from social services into the review board system, I think, would be a step forward in what I think has been a lack of cooperation. Social services from day one has not liked the idea of anyone else reviewing the cases. Now that's a fact, you can't get away from that. So I sympathize too with the employees at social services. It isn't a personal attack on them. But the system is not working to help the children. Because of the changes in our society in the last twentieth century here there are more and more of these children then there ever used to be. So that's another reason, the system has to grow with that. So, as I say, I'm going to support.... If you want to take out the... eventually take out the reference to the Program Evaluation... Performance Evaluation Committee, the Appropriations Committee, whomever is on that committee, would be looking at the budget, would work with the agency to see if it's working correctly and so on. But I would send a message too to social services to stop resisting and try to cooperate better and help this board survive, help these children survive. And the other thing, Senator Day, and I don't say this in a derogatory way, but you mentioned we don't know what's going to happen in Washington, well we never know what's going to happen in Washington. Democrat Congress, Republican Congress, every year, well, we might change this, you cannot wait for Washington to tell us what to do, I really feel that way. We've heard that a lot this session about all kinds of different things. Well, in Washington they're going to do this, in Washington they're going to do that. By October they may be doing something entirely different than they're talking about now. I just think as this Legislature, we're talking about