

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

we'll be able to get a better handle on...on this situation. Before any further, I'd like to take a moment just to commend Don Leuenberger. I think he's done a significant amount of work in a short period of time to even to be able to get 1044 in the position that it is right now and think that he should be recognized. And, finally, there's been a couple of people that have indicated that the devil is in the details, and I'd just like to remind everybody that the devil is everywhere.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I appreciate what Senator Maurstad said about the new "superlayer" that is going on, and I guess one of my concerns is our goal is to eliminate the duplication at the service level, and, quite frankly, the service level and all of the people involved there are a great part of the expense of our agencies. And in the Health and Human Services our Madam President did talk about that and talked about we've been studying this for over 20 years and that they have documented in those 20 years that people who need services must often wade through a bureaucracy of agencies and uncoordinated programs to receive services. One family may have as many as three different state workers from three different agencies because the service and funds are not coordinated. Nursing homes or child care centers may be independently inspected by as many as three different agencies, who do not share their data, and there are different application procedures with different state agencies or divisions within an agency. And I'll tell you, that's where my real interest is on what we can accomplish with LB 1044. And, Senator Wesely, if you would yield. Senator Wesely, I don't know if you heard me talking about, my real concern and my support would come for 1044 if, indeed, we could accomplish the reduction in numbers of service workers and reduction in number of agency hoops, and how can you guarantee me that, indeed, this will happen with 1044?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, guarantees in any political issue are pretty tough to...tough to come by, but I can...all I can do is assure you that that is what I know the administration, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, are committed to doing. I think that's what our committee is committed to doing; trying to eliminate the waste. We, on the committee, talked about this. The administrative structure and the duplication that has