

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

occurred there, and it carries on down into the caseworkers that have to go over and over with individuals who are seeking assistance, it makes no sense. So, obviously, the goal is to reduce that duplication.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I guess if at this debate we are truly sending a message to those who are going to be working on this for the next year, that would certainly be, I think, the primary and number one issue. I am not, frankly, happy with the superstructure as far as adding more advisory, but I did ask Lieutenant Governor Robak in committee whether this policy council, which will be advisory, will that replace the plethora of advisory councils that we have now in these agencies? We have far too many of these councils in these agencies. The Governor did not give me a direct answer, Lieutenant Governor, but that also is one of my concerns, that we if, indeed, are going to have a policy council, that it eliminate some of the other councils, in fact, I would say darn near all of those.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: How can we get a handle on the rising costs in the Department of Health, particularly, Institutions, Social Services is exceptionally? Is the answer by creating one huge bureaucracy instead of two big, one tiny and two large? I guess I don't know and I think probably everybody in this body is hoping that it can be done, but I'm not...I'm not sure that...that it can. Department of Agency (sic) has 24 employees, Department on Aging; Department of Health, 440 employees; Department of Public Institutions, 3,166 employees; Department of Social Services,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...2,029 employees; and only 208 in the Juvenile Services. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Klein.

SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the body. In my opinion, this bill is a litmus test for those who call themselves fiscal conservatives. This is one of the very few times we've ever seen a reduction that has not caused the recipients to bear the burden. This is an example of closing