

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And I want to look back at the provision that Senator Maurstad identified earlier with regard to the exemption of the 30 positions from the State Personnel System, and let me reiterate, or let me ask if I understand it correctly. Does this basically mean that with regard to these 30 positions the Governor, whoever he or she may be, he or she may be, can hire and fire at will? Is that essentially correct?

SENATOR WESELY: That's what the exemption would allow for, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And the intention here is not that there be ten positions from each of the three, in each of the three divisions, but rather that it may be a different number in each of those three divisions depending upon what the policy group decides, the Policy Cabinet decides, is that correct?

SENATOR WESELY: That's correct, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Let's, for the moment, let me ask you this. Let's say that there is a dispute about which positions those should be, and it goes to the Policy Cabinet. The Policy Cabinet is made up of four persons, is that correct?

SENATOR WESELY: That's right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And the Policy Cabinet, how...how are decisions to be made in the Policy Cabinet? Is it a majority, or is it the Policy Secretary determines? If there is a dispute within the Policy Cabinet with regard to a particular decision, how is resolution attained?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, hopefully, we will people of good will and conflicts will evaporate, but we all know that there will conflict points, and each director will be in charge of their department. Of course, the Policy Secretary will attempt to bridge between those departments, and I would say if there was a...let's say the 30 ended up that one agency wanted 15 and the others wanted 10 each, so they didn't have enough, I would suggest that the 3 would sit down and ultimately the Policy Secretary's role is to lead them through a decision-making process. Should they reach an impasse, I think that's the role of the Governor to intercede and to...all of them are hired and