

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah. Senator Robinson, it is similar to the welfare issue, which we passed the one year and then we worked through and came back the following year, and our committee was very much involved in that process. We will continue in this fashion with this issue.

SENATOR ROBINSON: I want to visit with the Policy Secretary, now we are cutting, what is it, from five to three, but we are adding another person back on then. Now what will be the pow...what power will this person have? I have read the thing but...

SENATOR WESELY: Well, they are to chair the cabinet. They are also the chair of the council, which is the private sector people that are involved. So that, as chair, they will have the oversight of trying to bring everybody together. They will not have ultimate authority of hiring and firing the directors of the other departments. They will, in fact, be under the Governor, as the other agency people are, but they're really the link, they are the glue. They are the bridge that is supposed to bring everybody together and get this system working.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Will that person be higher paid than the three directors of the departments? Who makes that decision?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I think that's the Governor's decision, so it would depend on the circumstance. I don't know that it's clearly going to happen that way, but I see the Policy Secretary as the ultimate person held responsible for making the system work together.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. Now we go, and Senator Avery alluded to this some, we have the partnership council. It would seem to me, I think this is very important, it seems to me that we ought to have...we ought to have.... Could I have a gavel, please?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Members, could you please give attention or cut down on the conversations, at the very least.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, it would seem to me it's such an important group that it should be well spread throughout the state, maybe by the congressional districts in some way, and does it have to be people that have an interest in this? Why