

to come that's why the salary was...is what it is. So I will continue to listen, and I think I understand that people have...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...good intentions in bringing these amendments, but I think we should understand what we're doing. And also again I just always want to say that I think the people who work in all these departments, from the secretaries, administrative assistants, people who run the computers and so on, they're very dedicated to doing the best job they can for the state of Nebraska. And so when you get up to the political level then I hope all those people, when they are appointed, remember that if it weren't for all those people who were doing the work every day, the ritty gritty work, there wouldn't be any need for that person at the top. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the body. Just for some purposes of clarification. The directors of these departments will already be politically appointed by the Governor. They are not included in this number. This includes the individuals that would be hired, at this time there are four in the Department of Health, five in DPI, five in the Department of Social Services. There are no employees exempt at this time in the Office of Juvenile Services, since it's a new area, and, according to the information I now have, one in the Department of Aging. And also if you, Senator Crosby, and others have a concern about front-line personnel, each...and appropriations individuals can talk about this in detail, if they want to. Each agency, as I understand, is given a personal service limit amount of money, and they have to hire their personnel within that amount. If we are going to double the number of individuals who can be hired above that salary structure, then it would stand to reason that if you were using the money to hire double your personnel, to hire more...fifteen more individuals in those areas, then you can no longer afford to pay your front-line personnel at the same amount, or the same number of individuals on the front line, because you are paying for double the amount of management when you're allowing this increase. So that's something I want people to understand. They're still within this set amount, but this is doubling the opportunity for management. So that's what this bill will do is