

simply say to the public, we have no plan except insofar as we're going to have three agencies and they're divided like this, and they're divided in such a way that's never been done before in the country so we don't know how it works out. We're not going to sound very credible. And we shouldn't try to be credible in that situation because we're not dealing with enough facts to deal intelligently with the bottom line here. I don't think... I think what's really being told to you here today is that you can't trust yourselves. The Legislature can't trust itself. They say, for example, well, we can't delay because this thing's not going to happen if we delay. Well, it will happen if you and I insist that it happen. And if the plan that goes forward is reasonable, why would we be less insistent in July than in January, or today? If the plan is good, we're going to be even more enthusiastic. If the personnel have things under control, we'll be even more enthusiastic. The agency heads, they have... people have confidence in the agency heads, so do I. But I also had confidence in an agency head that existed a few years ago and managed care did not turn out well. I think in that situation, for example, if we had taken another look a year later, we would have had some evidence of what was happening and maybe could have done a better job...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...of overseeing that particular situation. We need to know and see some evidence of the true commitment. I mean it's easy for people to come in and design this grand plan and then go home again. Who's going to be there day after day, who's going to be in charge of the particulars and the parts to see that it gets done? In the end it's going to be our oversight and oversight from the Governor's Office that sees that it gets done. But I think it's our responsibility, again, to see that there's a reasonable chance that it will get done, that there are plans in place, that there are people who are already committing themselves to getting it done. If you believe in yourself, if you believe in the Legislature, if you believe in your ability to make good judgements, why would you...

SENATOR COORDSEN: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...be afraid of delaying that judgement to a more objective time? Thank you.