

we will have a great deal of influence over the detail work that will follow. But, again, I want to cross the Rubicon. I want to make the decision to make these changes, and then let's work together to make them positive and constructive. So I oppose the Maurstad amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, again I have to preface my remarks with the statement that I'm opposed to the bill. I think it's a very poor bill. I want to ask Senator Wesely a couple of questions, if I may. But first, I think that there ought to be delayed implementation. The implementation should have occurred after the end of the fiscal year, next year. But I want to ask Senator Wesely a couple of questions. Senator Wesely.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: With reference to the hiring by these agencies, there is nothing in this bill that indicates any of that will change that I can detect. Is there something in the bill dealing with that which I have not picked up? The number of people who are going to be working in these agencies, is that total number going to be reduced? And how will those reductions be achieved?

SENATOR WESELY: Right. The bill does not reference personnel. It does keep in statute the amendment that we have, this huge amendment has all the statutes on programs and services, so that stays the same. The only change that actually is in the bill is you're going to have directors of the five entities now become three in those policy (inaudible), so that's the only thing in the bill. The rest of the personnel below that isn't addressed in the legislation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so we're not going to get any savings through reduction of personnel. Senator Wesely, isn't it true that the people who have the higher paid jobs in, I call it the S.S. Department, but you call it what you want to, are paid at a higher rate than was the case during the Mary Dean Harvey regime?

SENATOR WESELY: I don't know if all of the upper administrative