

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I think it would be hard to do, because with the budget you would have personnel in one category, payments to Medicaid in another one. So I don't think they could use savings from one and try and argue it came from somewhere else. But they do have some authority in those areas to move forward and have some savings.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, I'm not a fan of "General" Stenberg, I want to make that crystal clear, in case some have not picked up on that. But do you remember reading the newspaper, not long ago, or did somebody tell you about the attempt by the Governor to shift the cost for some lawyers with the Roads Department to the budget of the Attorney General, which would make it look like the Attorney General is spending more and the Governor is spending less. Those things are done by politicians. So contrary to what Senator Wesely is saying, mark what I'm saying today. After we're out of session there will be some Medicaid reductions and there will be an attempt to characterize those as savings resulting from this so called merger activity. Now, if that happens, well nobody will pay attention to it anyway, except those people who are concerned about governmental expenditures. I don't have the same interests or motivation that some of these so called tax rebels have. I believe that in order...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to provide services to the public, the cost of those services will increase in the same way that the cost of everything else in this society increases. I have never stood on this floor and said I favor a blanket tax cut, or would insist that a tax cut can be made. That type of politics has never been one of the arrows in my political quiver. But what I hope will be viewed is the reality that we face with this so called merger. It's not going to work, even administratively, it's going to turn into a nightmare. And it will be reversed after this Governor is not in office, and senators will be clucking and "tsk-tsking", wonder what's it all about, Alfie? We're doing it now, step by step.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Yes, Madam President, I'd yield my time to