

something that we can't...can't grasp, can't hold onto, because there is nothing there, it's air. There is nothing for us to legislate in this bill. I think asking for three months, after we get a report in January as to which direction they're going into, is the responsible thing to do. Individuals who would vote forward something, it's like buying a car you've never seen, or a house you've never seen, you wouldn't do this in your personal life, and yet you're willing to do this with a lot of personal lives here who will be affected by this piece of legislation. I see no reason not to do something like Senator Maurstad's amendment, giving us some time, when we are going to need it, next session, when we actually, hopefully will have something definite to vote on. And you also have at the federal level some changes being made and we don't know what those are going to be. The document that was put out by our Appropriations Committee even said that we have to make some considerations and some...we'll have to make some fast adjustments when something does occur at the federal level. I don't know why we are making such a suggestion for such a massive change in our largest departments that involve 2 billion, billion dollars, when we aren't sure what the changes are going to be at the federal level. To me, and I've said this time and time again, what this looks like to me is a lot of bureaucracies circling their wagons. They are circling their wagons so that we can't get in there and make changes, and they are using all of the correct rhetoric to make it sound like they are in favor of making these changes, when in fact what they are doing is circling their wagons and getting into a position of defense that we will not be able to get into and change. I am against 1044, I voted against 1044 on General File. I tried to make some changes of amendments to make it a more open process, to make it a more accountable process, because I think that would have least been working in the right direction. The fact that...if Senator Maurstad's amendment fails, it's an indication to me, as a person who follows these things very carefully, that these are very political votes....

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...that they are not thinking this through thoroughly and not doing this for what...for what is the responsible thing to do, which I believe it would be to adopt the Maurstad amendment would be the responsible thing to do, but doing this more as political favoritism. And that's now how you