

provide some of those services in a nonduplicative manner, how are you going to... In other words, what I am saying is we're seeing all the time about the same amount of people, except for two directors. Where...how are you going to eliminate some of those costs that we're now...that are now driving the costs up so greatly?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, obviously that's part of the process that we're starting to initiate, where they need to look at what functions now are being carried out across the agencies and where they can be brought together. And the idea would be, for instance, on the computer side, having different computer systems, maybe trying to get those systems lined up and working together, that...you don't need to have so many people working on that. For instance, the accounting field, the personnel field, once you get things combined you should be able to bring, where you have several people doing something, where you can get it down to one or two, and that should be a reduction, that middle management type side.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, you know, I didn't vote for Senator Maurstad's amendment simply because I thought if in fact we were going to have savings, I'd like to see these things in place and do as quickly as we can.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Even though I thought maybe some of his points were very good, my concern is, as I'm sure many people on this floor and certainly across the state are concerned about the costs. And the quicker we can attack that problem the better off everybody is going to be. And so I guess looking at what Senator Jensen has come forth with, how do you...how do you...how do you assess it in order to arrive at some of the cost-cutting measures that we're all striving to get at?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, again, I said I was in general agreement. It was simply...I didn't see the amendment until just...well, earlier this morning, and didn't have a chance to look at it with great care because it came up so quickly. But the intent of what he's trying to talk about is obviously very much of what we're talking about. It's just how defining the language is and how restrictive it is, because we're trying to find these and other ideas, and I think it may limit us too much. So, that's