

and an outside vendor being subject to approval by the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature. One of the problems I had with the amendment on 1375 was the Executive Board of the Legislature approving contracts, not because somebody should not approve those, it's just I question whether that is a legislative function. Because of the importance of that issue and because of the fact that it is only a stopgap measure, until we get a policy up and running, I felt as though I could support that. But I hesitate with the trend of having contracts entered into brought back for review by the Legislature. It just doesn't seem to me to be a legislative function to...it's a legislative function to set the policy, it's a legislative function maybe to determine what the parameters of a contract may be to forbid certain types of contracts, to authorize certain contracts. But approving or disapproving of a contract, after it's been negotiated, does not appear to me to be a legislative function. I think this is analogous to something we used to have in the Legislature, and that is an administrative rule review committee, where it used to be the law that prior to any rules and regulations by members of the administrative departments in the administration being promulgated and adopted, they had to come back to the Legislature for approval. And I believe that was declared to be a violation of the doctrine of separations of powers, and we no longer have that. And that's what this appears to be, particularly...I mean that's...that's the broad philosophical concern. The next level of concern I have about this is it appropriate for the Appropriations Committee, a committee of the Legislature which is not authorized to speak on behalf of the Legislature? At least the Executive Board of the Legislature has that statutory authority to act on behalf of the Legislature when the Legislature is not in session. But the Appropriations Committee really doesn't have that authority. And why are we giving them the ability to do that? Those are my concerns. Now the general thrust of what Senator Bromm wants to do, I think, and that is to, you know, get legislative oversight over this operation, is very appropriate. And I guess what he's doing is struggling in the same area that we all struggle in, those of us that think the Legislature needs more oversight authority, exactly how do you do that?

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: And I'm not so sure that he has done that