

April 1, 1996

LB 1391

SENATOR WITEK: So she wasn't just seeking this for herself then? She wants to have us aware of the policy and possibly change the policy?

SENATOR DIERKS: Absolutely. I'm sure they've spent more attorneys' fees than this \$780 is going to bring us.

SENATOR WITEK: Okay. And the union has set this policy, or the departments in the state have set this policy?

SENATOR DIERKS: I think that the policy has been set by the...the return of the money is supposed to be done by the Department of Administrative Services...

SENATOR WITEK: Okay, so this is a rule or reg of...

SENATOR DIERKS: ..but I don't know who sets the policy. Maybe NAPE sets the policy.

SENATOR WITEK: Okay.

SENATOR DIERKS: But the money comes from Department of Administrative Services.

SENATOR WITEK: Okay. Well, I guess I'll be voting for the Dierks amendment simply because I guess I don't...it's America and forcing somebody to pay union dues, I thought we solved some of these problems a long time ago before my time. Forced union dues, as far as I know, are illegal. And maybe I'm, you know, I'm not a lawyer, maybe I'm wrong about this, but this is a right to work state. As far as I know you can't force somebody to pay union dues. If they don't want to pay union dues, they say I don't want to pay union dues and they don't pay union dues. That's how I thought it worked out. And I...I guess I'm...I'll talk to DAS. I'm curious as to why we're, the state department, is involved in forcing someone to pay union dues, if that's their regulation or the union's regulation. I personally will find that out and see what I can do to change that policy. I know, you know, they changed when you can join and not join the insurance areas because, you know, that was very disruptive to have people dropping out of the insurance areas and things like that and I understood that policy, but if this came under that change, it should be singled out because it is a totally different issue than getting your insurance and having that