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funds that the Dierks amendment would be paying out. Hopefully, that will shed a little bit of light on some of the discussion lately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I don't think I'll take all of my time again this time, but I guess the thing that's been clarified for me, in my mind, here this morning is that this whole approach is part of a negotiated agreement between the state and NAPE and, therefore, once that negotiated agreement is in place I believe that DAS has a responsibility to follow those guidelines. Now, once again, my only question would be that time frame between February or January, whenever it was, in 1991 and the end of June of 1991 when Mrs. Hansen, she wanted out of the union but then at beginning in July of the next year she did not...she did not make that request again...or beginning in June she did not make that request for the next year. And I'm not sure that I believe that there's any problem with our not paying this at that point, because by that point she knew what the rules were. Even if she had not known what the rules were before, although it's hard to believe that a union steward wouldn't know what the rules were before, even if she hadn't known prior to February of '91 or January of '91, she at least certainly knew it by June of '91 and could have asked once again that her dues were withheld and instead, as has been mentioned, she participated in union activities in the ensuing years. I guess the fact this is a negotiated agreement clarifies things for me and I cannot support the Dierks amendment. Now, what I wish would happen here is that we could get this off the desk, so to speak, by maybe sitting down and having NAPE and Mrs. Hansen work this out. Apparently they can't and that's why it's on our table, and I'm not sure that we can do anything for them at this point. I'm not sure that we can. I'm not sure but what it's going to take a court to make the final decision on this, and no matter what we do that may be what happens anyway. So I guess at this point I can't support the Dierks amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Abboud, followed by Senators Janssen, Witek and Hilgert.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, I'm going to try to clarify the thought process that I went through. We talked a lot about