

the Dierks amendment should be rejected.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. The Chair recognizes Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I...something that Senator Schimek, I think, brought out the point that I was very interested in in the contract, in the employees contract, that the union is the one that indemnifies the state against claims. And I think that's very pertinent. And we're getting away from what this claim is all about, I think, when we start talking about how terrible unions are. And dear Kate, she hears the word union, and it seems like it turns on some kind of light in her head, that we must resist anything that the union brings to us or that the union's involved in. I don't feel that way at all. Unions have their place. And if you belong to the union, and I will agree with Senator Lindsay, if you're a steward in the union, it seems to me you should know the rules and regulations that you're operating under. So...but gee, the weekend was nice, wasn't it? I saw a lot of constituents. I saw a lot of constituents and nobody laid any guilt on me. (Laughter) So it was wonderful. But here we are back two hours and nineteen minutes into the session this morning, and already I'm feeling guilty because I might vote for the taxpayers of the state not to return this money, because I don't think they owe it. I think that the union has the money, and, this is all, I'm just listening to what's going on here and what has been said. And I do think we should pay attention to what Senator Schimek read out of that contract, that the union indemnifies. I think that's really important. So at this moment, I just don't believe that the state should be giving the money back. If, indeed, NAPE got the money, received it and owes it, NAPE should send the money back. Whether or not DAS continued to deduct the money, and I don't imagine anybody was standing over the clerk who was doing the computer work that continued to make that deduction, but whether or not that happened, there again, if it's a misunderstanding or whatever, I don't think we can settle it here on the floor just by giving the money back. So at this moment I'm not going to support the Dierks amendment. It's been an interesting discussion. I'm not sure why we're taking the whole morning on it, but maybe that'll be revealed to me one of these days too. Eventually everything comes clear. I figure it all out. But, remember what Senator Schimek wrote...what she read to us. And if you are going to be