

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...the amendment that is going to come before you very shortly is going to say that...is going to stick with the premise that no more contracts may be entered into for a fee greater than allowed by state law. However, if there is a proposed contract that proposes a fee for something for which there is no statutory fee specified, then they will have to report that proposal to the Executive Board at least 30 days prior to effecting...implementing that contract. So if there are areas out there where there are documents where we haven't thought of a fee because I guess we didn't think they would be that much in demand, but there are things people may demand, may want, and we haven't thought of that particular type of a record. So that will be permitted with the report to the Executive Board. However, contracts which would specify a fee greater than allowed by statute would be prohibited after the effective date of this law...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: ...with the exception of existing contracts which may continue to January 31 of '98. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Preister, your light is next.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I support the Withem amendment. I think that the addition of DAS and also of our Research Department could help the task force in their efforts. I think Research has a lot to offer and it would be of benefit. I am grateful for the amendment to the amendment because I think the \$50,000 really isn't needed. I think we sometimes short change and sell short our own staff. We have a lot of quality people who understand what goes on in state government, the process, and we have people who either in research or our own computer services who I have worked directly with who know what they're doing, do it effectively, and commit themselves to doing more than their eight hours a day of service. Unfortunately, they're not always given the credit for that. They're not recognized for the contribution that they make to the well being of the citizens of Nebraska and should be