

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 24, 1999

LB 637

Legislature, I'm not sure who, and certainly not from Mr. Smith. And at this point in time it doesn't matter. The issue is, the bill as written is where we should go. But I do think that what's important is for the IV-D office and the IV-D Division of Health and Human Services to understand this amendment that I have says that, any contract entered into by them shall not exceed one year. And that's to make sure that this Legislature keeps a hold of the process of who's going to do that. Now, right now the way the bill reads is that we are committed to a State Disbursement Unit, that the designation is going to be subject to the confirmation of a majority of the members of the Legislature. That needs to be a meaningful confirmation process and not one that they walk in to us next year and say, oh, you have to do this, because we've already executed a contract. And then they wave a contract at you and say, it's for five years, and there's nothing we can do to impair a contract. I want to make sure there's very clear notice, as of today, that when this designation gets made and the contract gets entered into, it's subject to our confirmation, so the Legislature has the ability to come back and say, I don't like this direction. Now that's not the Legislature coming back and saying, I don't want to do centralized child support, because the feds are going to look at the entire bill, they're not going to look at just one portion, they're going to look at our entire effort and our commitment toward centralization. We're going to do that; Senator Brown is committed to doing that, and the bill is going to pass with that commitment and the money, hopefully, to back up our commitment. But what I want to make absolutely sure this morning is that there wasn't a separation of powers issue that came from the feds, and that for us I think that there's the opportunity here to make the selection and the designation, but that that contract have a contingency to it for our approval and our confirmation. And, if that's not the case, quite frankly, I think there's going to be a firestorm coming from this Chamber over to the agency, because I don't want to be told, in a year or nine months from now, there's nothing you can do. And they have a large responsibility. I think they've made good commitments. The IV-D Division is going to jump in. They're going to start doing rules and regulations to implement this. And that's where their focus ought to be, and I think they ought to be commended for that because this is going to be a huge project. And poor, old Senator Jensen here, who looks so calm