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LB 696

Senator Schimek a question.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Senator Chambers, and I...this bill was heard last year so I'm having to look back at my committee statement to answer your question. But Michael Floyd from the National Federation of the Blind came in, in support of the bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But was there anybody speaking for the hearing impaired; they did not enter into the discussion?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Oh, I'm sorry, no, no, there weren't. There was no one.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you happen to know whether or not there is such a provision in contracts that might relate to making certain that the hearing impaired would be able to hold jobs of this kind?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I can't answer that, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. I just wondered if you knew off the top of your head. Thank you, Senator Schimek. Members of the Legislature, if I were to bring a bill of this kind it would be broader in scope. At the time we're going to address a problem, we may as well address it for all those who may be affected by it. But some of us who bring bills are not interested in solving a problem. We're interested in getting a headline or maybe something we can use when we run for election, either reelection to the Legislature or an attempted jump from the Legislature to some other office. And as a result, we get legislation that is not as broad in scope as it ought to be, and those groups who are similarly situated but not covered by the legislation, which is to provide some kind of relief, may get the impression that their interests don't measure up. This bill winds up on consent calendar. If something were to be done with it, perhaps it couldn't have been done in 15 minutes anyway, so it's just as well that it go by the boards like some of these other bills are going to go by the boards. Will all of them? We just have to wait awhile and see what happens. But in order not to hog up all of the time discussing the committee amendments, I'm going to at least let them get a vote on those.