

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

March 13, 2000 LB 1214

of the individual programs, and there is a tension between the executive and the legislative branches, some things are going to creep in such as this one. But instead of creeping in I would say this one slithered in, but I'm going to step on its head if I can. Three hundred and seventeen thousand dollars so that you can...you can spend \$3 million, and you know that amount is going to increase as time goes on.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The cost of personnel to operate it will increase. There might be some kind of inappropriate conduct on the part of whoever is running the camp, as has happened in other states, so there may be some tort liability. But the \$3,175,000 is not going to be a flat amount that's going to be kept level. It's going to increase and for nothing. Mr. President, I think that I've said as much as I want to say on this amendment so I will not speak again on it and I will ultimately withdraw it. But I do think discussion is necessary and I won't pull it until others who may want a chance to speak have done so.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further debate on the Chambers amendment, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in response to Senator Wickersham's questions about what constitutes the extent of the deficit that I spoke to, most of it is contained in three things, things that were decisions, some that were made legislatively, some that were made administratively, some that were made administratively prior to the current administration. The first is the Medicaid deficit. Much of that is a result of the children's health insurance program, not necessarily that it cost...it cost quite a bit more than we had projected but for very different reasons. Actually, the number of children that were enrolled was slightly less than had been projected but their needs were much higher. But, more importantly, a number of children were brought into the Medicaid Program as a result of the outreach that was done for the children's health insurance program that had not been a part of the Medicaid Program previously. And so those are children obviously that...that...who we have an obligation to provide