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to be sergeants or lieutenants to handle this, that's the thing I question, and there is a lot of that going on which I'm not real found of. So I'm going to listen to more of this. So, thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schmitt. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there have been various stratagems attempted to hire troopers on the sly. I'm going to ask Senator Wehrbein a very blunt and direct question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, is this an attempt to hire more troopers without explicitly seeking an appropriation for that purpose?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is that the ultimate goal?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...it is to the degree that we're not paying the full cost. But we...this is a direct appropriation of \$176,000 in a three year step, and we will be. But it is a direct appropriation for more officers, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the goal is to hold on to those troopers after the federal program expires and the state be in a position where it would be difficult to say, well, we're not going to continue to fund these troopers. Isn't that the administration's basic approach on this?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I...I can't speak for the administration, obviously, but I would certainly think that that would be the intent, is to keep them.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Members of the Legislature, one of the things that was attempted was to turn