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FLOOR DEBATE

February 6, 2003 LB 85

carefully and to perhaps not vote to advance LB 85. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Schimek. The Chair would recognize Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature, Senator Landis, if I could address you, please.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Senator Landis.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Landis, I have to apologize, first of all, because I understand that yesterday you took some considerable time with us to explain the need for the bill and all of that. And I was off the floor working on a bill I had to present in the afternoon. So I'm probably going to ask you some questions that you've already answered. However, a number of my constituents are taking an interest in this matter, and I feel it's incumbent upon me to understand it thoroughly, and to proceed with caution, based upon what they told me. But here's what I want to go back...there is several things I want to confirm or have you inform me differently on. I think some of us got a letter from a particular law firm, the law firm that sometimes represents public employees, indicating or seeming to explain quite clearly that it is, indeed, possible, even at this particular point in time, to go through the process that normally we would go through in this case in order to try to increase these salaries or adjust these people in the manner that would be appropriate for the situation that the two departments face. Tell me why it is that saying to the Department of Banking and saying to the Department of Insurance, hey, spend the month of February working through the established negotiating process that's available at this point in time, and if it can't be worked out, then we will do this extraordinary thing of going through the Legislature and upsetting the normal course of things, and doing it in this manner especially on such a sensitive thing as involving a really kind of small but direct attack on the negotiating system and the bargaining system. I mean, obviously, that's sensitive to public employees, generally, and particularly sensitive, of course, because we just passed another bill relating to employees at DHH, pharmacists and doctors and some others, that. if I'm