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LB 737

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Okay. On March 14, 2003, a warrant was originally issued to Media One Group Incorporated in the sum of \$52,209.08. Media One Group Incorporated changed its name to US West Communications and subsequently asked that a new warrant be issued. The department cancelled the original refund and reissued a warrant on April 29, 2003. US West did not attempt to deposit the check until May 24, 2004, when it was returned to them as expired. There is no reason or evidence provided as to why the warrant was never cashed.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Were you finished, Senator Cunningham?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yes. Yes, I am.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Or did you wish to give your time back to Senator Wehrbein, or his time back to him?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: I will return my time to Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, thank you, Senator Cunningham. If I have some time left, Senator Schimek, a few minutes?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: You have 3 minutes and 42 seconds.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I don't have much else to say and perhaps we don't have any more light to shed on this, based on what Senator Cunningham has said, but I'm not uncomfortable myself to vote to deny these two claims, realizing Department of Revenue has said yes and so has Labor. Maybe all of you are more softer-hearted than I am in this particular case, but these have...there was a year when these...to do this. It's hard for me to imagine that any size organization would allow these kind of checks to just simply slip through the cracks. If there was extenuating circumstances that haven't been brought out as to why they were lost, why they were displaced--there was a change in management, change in people handling the checks, all those kinds of things--that would be different, but there is real no explanation. I thought maybe the committee would have those.