

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

April 4, 2006

LB 1249

general manager or president is his title, and it's a gentleman named Tom Wurtz, I believe, is actually the individual that you're referring to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Under what circumstances would he receive, as part of severance, a lump-sum payment of \$6,639,000?

SENATOR FRIEND: Oh, I don't think he would.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: He wouldn't?

SENATOR FRIEND: I...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: He's not worth it, huh? Okay. How about \$25,952...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...per week for a period of 18 months, or bi-weekly?

SENATOR FRIEND: Well, I don't have any knowledge. I don't believe that...I don't have any information that would tell me that he would receive anything like that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If this information is true, does it raise a question in your mind about the solvency and the lucrativeness of Aquila's operation, if they can give one guy a lump-sum payment of \$6,600,000? They must be rolling in dough, mustn't they?

SENATOR FRIEND: Well, that's a leading question. I would answer it by saying that if all of that has been substantiated--and I haven't seen it, I'm believing what you're reading to me--I would say that that's probably problematic, at the...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you aware they had to sell-off some utilities because of the crushing debt that they were under?

SENATOR FRIEND: I have read information in the past that has