

March 2, 1973

SENATOR WHITNEY: The answer is yes Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: So how much new money are we talking about here?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, new money would be about three and a half million.

SENATOR NORE: Three and a half million, now how are these departments, buying the group insurance, is it a pork barrel operation, they have a friend somewhere that they would like to give a little business to, or is it put out on an open bid, the way they are operating now, the department?

SENATOR WHITNEY: I don't know what pork barrel means Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Well you should know, if you don't it's too bad. I think you do, I don't think you are being honest with me.

SENATOR WHITNEY: The purpose here is definitely if it is pork barrel, or something else other than competitive bids, that it be put on competitive bid, at the moment, different departments apparently do it on their own, and I'm not certain exactly how they do do it, but this is for the purpose of making it uniform, it's for the purpose of having it done for all state employees alike, and the director of personnel has been in on this of the state government, and we've talked this over with many people with a repeated number of hearings over a period of a year, and this is the final outcome of those presentations.

SENATOR NORE: Now definitely there will be competition published so that the, all the reputable insurance companies can have a fair shot at this for the business.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes.

SENATOR NORE: That'll be in the bill?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes, it's in the bill.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Savage, excuse me Senator Savage, Senator Proud was indicated a desire to speak first. Senator Proud.

SENATOR PROUD: Well Mr. President, Senator Whitney you may not appreciate it, but I got to come to his rescue. He's been in the barrel too long, all week, and I don't know of a more conservative man, and I say that kindly in legislature then Senator Whitney, and I served on that retirement committee for two years and didn't like it, because we sit there hour after hour and listened to actuaries, and to me there is nothing duller in all the world, but on the other hand to Senator Whitney, this is kind of fascinating, this is his cup of tea, and he contributes immeasurably to the work of that committee and as I understand this, he is just asking that the bill be introduced, and this business of some kind of fringe benefits for state employees is very, very serious business and of all bills that need to at least be introduced, this is the bill, and I assure you that Senator Whitney is not just throwing money around at random, so I certainly hope that you vote for the introduction of the bill, so it can have it's hearing, it's vitally important.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Savage.

SENATOR SAVAGE: I would like to ask Senator Whitney a question if I may?

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney will you yield to another question?