

that were contacted, DAS, Games and Parks, etc., it seemed to be very iffy as to whether or not they could handle these projects. They thought that there might be a minimal savings, but on the other hand from the other side of their mouths they said, well it may perhaps require additional employees to handle these other projects. But I think the major objection that I have to this bill, colleagues, is the fact that we are eliminating the bid process. There is no opportunity at all for individuals that are involved in this business to place a bid, and the individual agency then decide which bid, and in many cases it's the lowest, will be able to perform the work. So I think that we should give this consideration when we consider increasing the amount. We will be eliminating the bid process. We will be accepting the amount by only one individual, that being the agency that wishes to perform the work. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cope, the Chair recognizes you.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, one more quick point. Either we have too many architects at the present time, or we're going to have to hire additional ones to do the job. It's just as simple as that. If they're fully occupied right now, and we hope they are since they're hired, then they're not going to have sufficient time to do these additional contracts that are coming up. So, it... we either should cut the personnel or it will have to be increased.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labedz, and, Senator, you may close because there is no one else wishing to speak so you just as well use this as your closing.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I would like to address my first remark to Senator Stoney. As far as the competitive bidding process, what he said was not true. LB 715 of 1978 already exempts all projects under a hundred thousand from the competitive bidding process. I also would like to state that this bill, LB 38, does not state that we have to use in-house engineers and architects. If the department decides that the outside consulting engineer or architect is needed, he may do so and go and get it. He doesn't have to hire extra employees because we're forcing something onto him. This is only if when needed the in-house architects and engineers can be used on any contracts over, up to and including a hundred thousand. Thank you. I move for the adoption or the...I'm sorry...I move for the advancement of LB 38 from General File to E & R Initial.