

goes, but again, I think this is a cost that in this cost containment times that we do not need to justify.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I had a notation here that my good friend and colleague, Senator Vard Johnson in opposing this amendment said, I think the state should be allowed to remain flexible, flexible and yet Senator Vard Johnson voted for the cap on special education. Is that being flexible? It seems contradictory to me. I have here a letter from Ronald L. Jensen, Director of the Department of Public Institutions and this I find most interesting, his final paragraph. "I do want to caution you that the project, as finally approved by DPI, may not be exact in every detail as proposed, either fiscally or programmatically." That's the Director of the Department of Public Institutions who would not give Senator Smith any information about her own district, but was most willing to give information to senators who do not represent that district. But I think this is really funny, this is ridiculous. He is proposing something and he is saying here in his own letter, you've got the handout, "I do want to caution you that the project, as finally approved by DPI, may not be exact in every detail, either fiscally or programmatically." Well how in the name of all that's holy does a director plan something and he doesn't even know what he is doing? He doesn't know the fiscal impact. He doesn't know what the programming is going to be. All he knows is he wants to close what has been working successfully for many years. I know how Senator Smith feels about not being able to get information from the Department of Public Institutions. I went through the same thing all summer long from various governmental agencies that simply refused to give the information to the research department. Is Senator Beutler on the floor? I'd like to ask him a question if he is. I went before the Executive Board a couple of weeks ago and I told them about my problem in trying to get information from government agencies and how the research department every time they called they said, oh, it will take too long to get that information or we're going to get it to you, we're going to get it to you. It took from June until January to get it. At the Executive Board meeting I attended I asked them, will you do something to give the research department more authority to get information from the executive branch? Since Senator Beutler is not here