

because of the delay as might be the case if we started July 1. We can't do it July 1 because it is so late in the year to make the adjustment. It would be too great a burden right now. So the committee plan which isn't such a great change can take effect this July 1 and then we will save some money, but overall in the long term, the comprehensive medical plan will save a great deal more money for the state in terms of premiums than the plan offered by the committee, the Appropriations Committee. As Senator Johnson talked about, the Pay Benefits Committee recommended a 5 percent salary increase and a change to the comprehensive medical plan. Well, at the time we made that recommendation, I was well aware that we didn't have 5 percent and I agreed to not raise that point and let the naive and well-intentioned members of the Pay Benefits Committee come out with the recommendation of 5 percent and the med plan and I did that because I trusted NAPE and hoped that they would understand the situation. What they are saying now is, well, gee, the Pay Benefits Committee said we can't have this thing without a 5 percent increase. The only problem is the committee didn't understand that there was no way that there was going to be a 5 percent increase and now it is being used against the change to the comprehensive medical plan. I think if you came back to that committee and said today a 3 percent increase is all we can afford, do you still think we ought go to this change in plans, I think you would find them saying, yes, but under the circumstances over a month ago, we didn't realize that was the situation and so I don't think we should hold ourselves to inaccurate information just as we don't stay with the same budget today as we did a month ago when we didn't have all the information we do. We must recognize the changes occurring. We must recognize the tight fiscal circumstances we are under. We must recognize that the need for this change has been there for many years and let's not delay any further the effort to try and undertake it. I ask your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, the question is the adoption of the Wesely amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 5 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The amendment fails.