

just don't do it. I would urge that you give careful thought to this appropriation bill, but, I am going to repeat, to suggest that we did something other than the sponsors requested is absolutely misrepresentation of fact because what we put in last year's appropriation bill is what the sponsors had included in LB 13A bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: It was not passed, it was not passed because it was over on Final Reading and we had this opinion floating around that you cannot fund in the A bill for a fiscal year that extends beyond or after an election to a following year. Those opinions only affect odd number...or even numbered years. That is why it wasn't passed. If it had been passed, why we would have funded it just as we did with the amount that was suggested by the sponsors that was required in the agencies involved. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Scofield. The speaking order is Senator Hall, Hoagland, Goll and Labeledz. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, this is a difficult issue to speak to. It has so many emotional overtones that I would just like to stand up and share with you at least a few of what I believe to be central issues here. And the issue isn't whether these positions are desirable. I think everybody who has contacted us, who has talked about the importance of these kinds of positions, who works in those positions, has made a good case for that. The issue isn't whether we want to protect children, as has also been made the case and we have had some articles, and so forth, passed around. The issue isn't, will there be some people out of jobs if you don't adopt this amendment, because, in fact, that will be the result. All of these things are the case. I think the more significant issue here and regardless of how you decide to vote on this particular amendment, I think you need to really focus in on this one single issue and that is there is no question that these positions were not funded. There is no question that this was not in the budget. There is no question that those responsible for making these decisions didn't know that. They knew it. They told us in the hearing they knew it. They went ahead and they made the decision to pick up these eight positions. It is