

March 1, 1988

LB 1106

Mr. President, I have a priority motion on the desk. Senator Landis would move to adjourn.

SPEAKER BARRETT: You heard the motion to adjourn. It is not debatable. Machine vote has been requested. Those in favor of adjournment please vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Landis, did you call for a call of the house? (Laughter.) Record.

CLERK: 2 ayes, 17 nays to adjourn, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Motion fails. Next bill, 1106.

CLERK: Mr. President, 1106, is a bill introduced by Senator Scofield. (Read title.) It was introduced on January 13, referred to Government, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker, members, the purpose of this bill is self-explanatory. Let me repeat though that all it does is remove the Policy Research Office from the State Personnel system. And you will recall that the current Governor has folded into that Energy Office people which are excluded from this effect. The rationale behind this bill is that when the Policy Research Office was established a few years ago there were a lot more federal grants out there and there was a need to separate that office out for what I understand to be 895 process procedures and other kinds of grant oversight procedures. As we all know, the federal funds have pretty much dried up, there isn't much of that activity going on and there is no 895 process anymore in this state. So, in effect, the Policy Research Office has become an arm of the Governor's Office. And it occurred to me that it would be wise to give the Governor the same power that we have over our individual staff, otherwise the Governor is left with inheriting staff who may be perfectly capable but may not be the people whom she or he would surround himself with to carry out the agenda that she or he ran upon, and consequently you might not be able to use your staff in as flexible a manner as possible to achieve the objectives of your administration. With that brief explanation, I would urge you to advance the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Wesely.