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LB 488

think we need a state treasurer or state auditor. The state treasurer's functions could be handled quite well by DAS. Most of their functions have been diverted elsewhere anyway. We don't need that office. We don't need that expense. The function can be held by DAS. It can provide the check and balance we need anyway. As a matter of fact, if you would give me a chance I could talk quite a bit about that subject. I don't think I will but I don't think we need that office. I think it is not necessary under the present situation and it is a waste of our money. I hope we will look into that and determine whether or not that is, in fact, the case and make the determination. The state auditor is doing an important job. It is an important function. There has been some controversy during the past year and quite frankly twenty-four other states have the state auditor under the Legislature. I don't think we need a state auditor. Quite frankly, that should be a legislative function, the oversight of the executive branch. The appropriation process could handle that. The fiscal analysts office could be expanded and we do not need a state auditor. So we are talking about increasing salaries, at least in a couple of cases for state officers that are not necessary. So in addition to the Governor's lack of support for our efforts in the past, I think you can see from the other offices that I just don't see any need for this bill and I don't see a need for a couple of those offices. So your opposition to the bill would not be harmful and, in fact, would be helpful to the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye. All those opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 22 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has not ceased. Senator DeCamp, you are next to speak. Senator Koch, did you want to talk on the advancement of the bill? No, we did not cease debate.

SENATOR KOCH: Well, Mr. Chairman, Senator Wesely alluded to some remarks that I think are very appropriate. I have no problem with providing salaries to constitutional officers in terms of their responsibilities but recently I was examining the costs of gasoline when I first came here as opposed