

not meaning to say anything about this particular bill, but they always say the only way you can stop an agency from growing is never starting it. I think we would be wise today never to start this protocol office. I'm not saying it's bad because exactly the things that Secretary of State Beermann and others mentioned this state does need to do. But the fact of the matter is that, you know, we can...there's got to be some way we can do this without spending \$80,000 of new money and eventually spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of new money for a protocol office. There are simply better things that we can spend our money on in this state. And, you know, the fact every year...two years ago when I ran for election, the 27, 28, those here today that ran for election, I know you went out there and you said, I am against excessive spending in state government. I promise to do what I can to bring common sense to spending in state government. And you sit there and you say, I will do all I can to make sure state government doesn't grow unnecessarily. Well, if you mean any of those things you said, you should vote to kill this bill, because if you don't, and if you vote this LB 177 and eventually pass it, it's going to grow and there will be further unnecessary expenditures by the state. Now, Senator McFarland asked me to respond how could we do all the things that Secretary of State Beermann mentioned and I granted that some of those are...you know, may take a little work but I think with a little effort it could be done. As Lieutenant Governor Nichol came in when he came in in a neutral capacity for this bill, you know, last year after the Governor vetoed LB 295A, she came back and said with a little bit of time this could be done in the Lieutenant Governor's office. I know there has been some people that say this...you know, when people...when these high-powered people come to the State of Nebraska, the thing they want to see usually is the Unicameral. That's what they want to see because we're a little odd here in Nebraska. I mean, however you want to say that, we're the oddballs, they want to come and see the Unicameral. And, because of that, the protocol officer should not be underneath the Governor's arm, it should be underneath the legislative arm. Well, if you put it underneath the Lieutenant Governor, he is the President of the Unicameral Legislature, so what a more obvious place to put it. Now, regardless of what you think of Bill Nichol or Don McGinley or Roland Luedtke, or whoever it is, that's the way it should be handled. I mean, if the Governor makes this a priority, I mean, if you're coming from a different state and you have the second person in command welcoming you, what else do you want? He's the Lieutenant Governor of the state. That's the logical place