

therefore, in effect, show that there was no need for this type of act to be passed. The response by Secretary of State Beermann and State Treasurer Marsh I thought was excellent. Their response was to the effect that some Governors in the past have done a fairly good job with the protocol responsibility. Other Governors, because of lack of time or responsibilities on other matters, have let this protocol responsibility become a low priority for them. It is my feeling that it is a low priority right now as evidenced by the lack of action by the present Executive Department in that area. That may change and, in fact, I hope it does, but the problem that was addressed is that if it changes from Governor to Governor, it becomes a real problem as to who is Governor whether this responsibility will be carried out. For that reason, you need a statute, you need a protocol office to be established. Other states have done this type of and have established this type of office in their states. I mentioned that 20 or 30 cities in the United States have even established a protocol office because it is an important function. If you establish it in statute, then it becomes a continuous type of responsibility that will be addressed no matter who the Governor is, because the office is established, it is in place, it is operational. If you put a sunset clause on it, then you are, in effect, risking the possibility that somehow it won't be renewed. Then we will be back to the current situation we have with the protocol responsibility up to the discretion of the Executive Department, and as past history shows, that has not always worked well. With regard to some of Senator Hefner's concern, there is a very easy way to limit spending if, in fact, it would get out of hand, and that is for the Legislature to introduce a bill that would, in fact, eliminate the office. I mean you can introduce a bill at any time. I don't know why we necessarily have sunset provisions on every bill. My experience, at least in the Education Committee and some of the other committees, has been that any time a sunset clause is added, we just, if the statute is working well, we just automatically extend the statute or extend the agency or the commission or whatever we have established. I think a sunset clause is really unnecessary. If it becomes a problem, if there is some situation that arises of which we are not contemplating at this time with respect to the operation of a protocol office, then a future legislator or another state senator, or Senator Hefner will probably still be here at that time, can introduce legislation to terminate it. That seems a logical response and the effect will be much, much better. I just don't think it is needed. I would like to make