

SENATOR PIRSCH: Right. Now if this is made by appointment of the Governor, the Governor could appoint this to one of the positions that is already in the Executive Branch, is that not right? Such as the Lieutenant Governor?

SENATOR McFARLAND: Oh, gosh, I would hope not.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, that is fine.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Not any disrespect (interruption)...

SENATOR PIRSCH: I didn't want any editorializing. I just wanted to see if that would be a possibility. I am concerned about starting another bureaucracy. Not only do you have salaries, but you have benefits that are paid to state employees. You have an ever-expanding turf that we all are familiar with as growing and growing, and many things get involved beside just the stated salary. And I am afraid that I am still in opposition to LB 177. However, I do think it is a good idea and I hope that the Governor does go forward with this kind of plan but not with that kind of expense.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schellpeper, then Senator Scofield. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator McFarland, would you like to close on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President, I certainly would. I would like to respond a little bit further to Senator Pirsch's question about assigning these duties to another officer in the government. The Office of Lieutenant Governor and the Secretary of the State and the State Treasurer, those are all full-time jobs, I mean we pay probably an inadequate amount to these people to have enormous duties that they have to fulfill, and I think it is just unfair to ask the Secretary of State or the State Treasurer or the Lieutenant Governor to try to do...to serve the function of a full-time...of a protocol officer, which is really a full-time job. We have a lot of visitors to our state and I wish that people would get a chance to meet some of these people when we are not in session and see how many people