

fund people in order to do this. We have it in statute and it can work, and with that, those are the opening remarks of what the amendment is going to do, and I simply think I will sit back and watch the discussion. And, again, my reasons for offering the amendment is to give some type of mechanism so that these two groups who have been, in my opinion, it has been a very difficult type of negotiation, and particularly on the part of, again in my opinion, of the Historical Society. These two groups are going to need some type of mechanism for these wounds to heal, and I think this mechanism can be a very effective way to go, and, Madam President, I conclude my remarks.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. We are speaking on the amendment to LB 340. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam Chair, members of the Legislature, Senator Bernard-Stevens had done such a good job of explaining his amendment and also delineating the circumstances in which a dispute or controversy could arise, and if one really did and if it were legitimate and genuine, it would be so narrow in scope that I don't see that it would take a Solomon to resolve the issue. So without having to create a new layer of bureaucracy, setting up some kind of system where two, if you want to call them, warring factions have to agree on a third that is acceptable to both of them, which is highly unlikely, we would be wise to accept Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. To set up any other system could create an argument about how to solve the argument, and here is what I am saying. Let's say there is a genuine dispute and you are trying to arrange some way to get a committee to operate. There could be so much dissension in putting together the committee, if you want to say it would be formed by each side naming one, then those two settle on a third, that could entail so much argument and loss of time and inability to operate that we would have a deadlock and nothing would occur. If, on the other hand, you had a situation where the Governor or any political entity is going to set up the committee, then it can be tilted one way or the other. The Office of Public Counsel is made independent by the statutes, not beholden to the Legislature, to the Governor, or to any other entity of government. The Ombudsman will make the determination, and I don't think it would take a great amount of time once the issue was submitted, and if it is not liked, if the decision is disagreed with, then through the Administrative Procedures Act, there would be an appeal. So I am in favor of Senator Stevens, Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment, and I hope