

money that duplicates something that has already been done. Is that your understanding of the rules and regs, that DEC can review all of the local monitoring committee's expenditures?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is correct, Senator, and that is consistent with our own expenses, for example, whereby we do not have a free and easy hand to spend money as we see fit and then expect reimbursement. The expenditures of the monitoring committee must be consistent with the directives and the goals and the objectives of the committee and not outside of those objectives, and I don't think that we would want it to be otherwise.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Let me just ask one other thing, Senator Schmit, and I thank you for clarifying that. Would you say, then, that there isn't any room here for a local monitoring committee to disagree on data or to ask for a second opinion, when they have what might be legitimate local concerns, and doesn't that really give all the authority, then, to DEC to tell that local committee, well, you have got to take this set of data and that is what you have got, whether you agree with it or not?

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, I disagree again, Senator Scofield. The collection of data or the analysis of data is the proper function of the monitoring committee and that would, of course, fall within the scope of their responsibility. It might well be that a second opinion would be money well spent. It does not mean that they need, that because Conservation and Survey says this is the data we've accumulated in 1957 or 1959 or '64 or '41 and you have to rely upon it. If the monitoring committee feels that it is necessary, they have every right and obligation to pursue additional data. The reason for the approval is to prevent very frankly what might be...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...an expenditure of funds substantially outside the legitimate responsibilities of the monitoring committee.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Schmit. I feel more comfortable as you reiterated that there is an opportunity here for a local monitoring committee to, in fact, make those decisions, but I still have some concerns I guess as I listen to