

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature...I'm trying to tailgate on Senator Coordsen. For him, for the talk he gave it was about like what I just gave you for me. I have never seen him so exercised and it's good because his juices are flowing this morning and I'm sure it will put him in good stead for some of the very heavy issues we're going to deal with shortly and perhaps I awakened some of those who were in the state of suspended animation. But I would like to ask Senator Coordsen a question or two. Senator Coordsen, if you can recover your composure because, generally, I don't blast off like that, I kind of work up to it. You had started by saying we cannot do what my amendment did which was to deny these claims. Why do you say we cannot do that? Since we did it last year and there was nothing from the Attorney General's office in the form of a directive to the Legislature or any court saying that we could not do that, so why are...

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Chambers...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...you now saying we can't do it this year?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Excuse me. Senator Chambers, I would imagine, and this is speculation on my part, is because there was no contest, no question raised last year. It's no different than any other deviation from whatever our statutes might provide in any area.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How is the question different this year when we denied the claim...the claims than it was last year when we denied the same claims? How is the question different?

SENATOR COORDSEN: The question is different in one respect, as I understand it, and that is that it was a claim against the state and these people at that time. This year, there is a claim made by the employees to be rightfully compensated for the cost of our action last year.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Coordsen, what in the law prevents us from denying these claims?

SENATOR COORDSEN: According to the information I have, it's in 81-8239.05, the state shall indemnify its officials and