

really been done to improve the quality of our hosting of foreign dignitaries and representatives of state from other countries. It came out of the Government Committee on a unanimous vote. During debate on the General and Select File a few people expressed concerns with what, at that time, was an \$80,000 appropriation. There was concern that that was too much, that was, I feel, somewhat I guess foolish when we're passing millions of dollars of bills now and hundreds of thousands of dollars with the modesty of this expenditure. But nevertheless one of the things that came out in the discussion was the fact that a lot of private corporations and a lot of private companies, individuals have given gifts to foreign guests and dignitaries and have expressed a desire to contribute to help the program of hosting these people and visitors to our state. So this amendment that I passed out just establishes a cash fund to allow private corporations, companies to contribute to the cash fund for the purpose of providing some of the expense for this program. And I'll just read it quickly. It just says, "There is hereby created a Protocol Office Cash Fund. The fund shall be administered by the Protocol Officer and shall contain such funds as the Legislature shall appropriate, and any other funds as may be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the fund". Then it continues. I think it's...I trust it is relatively noncontroversial. I would ask that you return the bill to Select File for purposes of this one amendment that would allow private companies and corporations and individuals to contribute to the cash fund for purposes of the Protocol Office. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: I'm sorry, your concluding remark, Senator McFarland, was what?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: To return the bill to Select File for purpose of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members. Very briefly, obviously, I'm one of the people kind of leading the opposition to this bill and the amendment that Senator McFarland brings forth now is partially included in an amendment I introduced to this bill way back in February on Select File. Regardless of your feelings on the bill, if indeed it is going to pass, which I hope it won't, but if it is going to pass, it probably would make perfect sense to have this amendment on. For that reason,