

May 23, 1989

LB 177A

question.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, will you respond to a question, please?

SENATOR MOORE: Now we created the Cash Fund with the amendment that you introduced on Friday night, correct?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, we did.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, given the Cash Fund that was created, obviously that was half the amendment that I introduced on General and Select File and so private corporations and people interested in this Protocol Division could now contribute money to the Protocol Officer, correct?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Exactly, and they have done that in the past on foreign visitors and dignitaries. They've given them gifts and contributed money.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, the only reason I rise to state then, and I will, along with Senator McFarland, don't have any balance on my time to argue it, but I think this is one of those rare occasions we don't necessarily have to have the A bill. By creating in statute, you've created the office, and if there is sufficient interest among private corporations, the public in general, or foreign dignitaries, the Cash Fund could finance this particular Protocol Officer at the level there is interest. And, for that reason, I simply would urge the body that they, even though you voted for the bill, feel free to vote against the A bill and you still have created that Protocol Office and it can be funded if there is interest, and I withdraw the motion after Senator McFarland has any time to respond.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, would you like to respond?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, I'd be glad to. In the past, there have been private individuals and businesses that have given gifts to foreign visitors and dignitaries in the way of, oh, items, awards, hats, mementos, all that kind of thing. Also, they have provided cash funds to pay for meals, expenses, hotel bills, things like that. The idea of the Cash Fund was certainly a way to allow that practice to continue and, in fact, reduce any expense that might be incurred by the bill itself. Certainly it's not going to be a completely self-funding operation at