

about here. If we make the investment, the investment will pay for itself in terms of more efficient government. And the amount that we potentially could save ourselves from this expenditure, making the office more efficient, would more than compensate. Unfortunately, I think, this request, before the Appropriations Committee, did get mixed in with the performance audits. And Senator Breslow... Auditor Breslow has made no bones about the fact that he would like to do performance audits. But I believe that you can separate this issue. We're talking about other kinds of audits. I'm informed that the auditor's office is behind on requests for audits. There are many other things that they could be doing, if that staff was freed. Ladies and gentlemen, I would reecho what Senator Chizek said, and that there are times when I think that we all have wished that somebody was guarding the chicken coop. We have a \$3 billion budget. There are many ways that the auditor could be effective. There is some disagreement about whether performance audits can now be offered by the state auditor. Some on his staff believe that political subdivisions and entities, such as the university, can be audited by the auditor. And Senator Scott Moore mentioned the fact that upon request of the Governor it can be done. I guess the bottom line on this is that we're talking about \$200,000, a hefty expenditure, but where could we better spend \$200,000. We just voted a bill, about a week and a half ago, that would buy some property across here from the Capitol, for \$200,000. I mean if you put things in perspective, I'm not certain that that's a better expenditure of funds than making the state auditor's office more efficient. Some have suggested on the floor this morning that we need to draw the line and, if we don't, we will have other kinds of requests. My suggestion to you this morning is that the Legislature can draw the line anywhere it wants to draw the line. And if it thinks this is a priority kind of expenditure, then that will suffice. I would recommend the adoption of the Hall amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Our next speaker is Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I do not know if the amendment by Senator Hall will do that which is necessary to raise the level of confidence of the people of Nebraska in the spending processes of their various state agencies. But with the kind of a budget that we have, about \$3 billion for the biennium, the kind of money we are talking about here really