

of dollars over the years, things like Low-Level Waste Compact Commissions that have...will probably cost us a million dollars over the years. But those are always after the fact when we address that. We always have the clearest sight after it's gone through the mill, after the money is gone and no one is there to take the blame. If they are, the blame isn't anywhere near what the infraction had dealt to the state budget. But we'll let the money continue to flow, and we'll argue about a \$215,000 price tag on some computer capability that will upgrade the office to the point where hopefully they'll be able to find these type of things down the road should we give them the proper authority to do that. I guess the thing that irritates me the most about this discussion is that if, by some chance, I misspoke when I opened, I sure didn't mean to. But in no way did I mean to impugn the Appropriations Committee in how they handled the auditor's budget. I don't even think I spoke to that or mentioned that. It doesn't make sense to irritate 20 percent of the membership of the body when you're opening on an amendment. And I clearly did not intend to do that. I apologize if I did, or if some took it that way, but that's not what the intent of my opening was. The issue here, or the issue that Senator Bernard-Stevens spoke to is a one-time error on the part of the auditor. I think the isolated incident that he spoke to, if you walked out back behind the glass, I think Mr. Breslow is still back there, and ask him, he'll tell you that he screwed up, he made a mistake. And as Senator Bernard-Stevens knows and we all know from time to time, when we're newly oiled, we're newly in office, we have that capability. Even after we've been in office quite a while, we have the capability of making mistakes from time to time. If you don't learn from those mistakes, I guess that's one thing. But to hold that against an individual who might be the auditor at this time and say that's the purpose for not supporting this amendment...

SENATOR MORRISSEY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...because of the way they handled themselves, probably the first budget hearing they've ever been before the Appropriations Committee, I think that's ill-advised at best. Look at the issue on the face. It's monies that will allow the office of the auditor to function, through the purchase of these kinds of equipment, to probably about a 30 to 40 percent improvement. They're going to be much more efficient, they're going to be able to provide the kind of data that we need to make good decisions. I would hope you'd support it. It does