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Appropriations Committee that will have some handle on what those expenditures are.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Kristensen. I think we need to be mindful here that this could cost us some extra dollars but I, too, believe that we do need some legal counsel from time to time. I would be hopeful that we wouldn't create another division or another department and staff that because that could run into quite a few dollars, but I believe having a law firm or an attorney standing by would certainly help us to have an attorney as a retainer, would certainly help us from time to time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Chambers and Ashford. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I'll wait till the committee amendments...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I support the committee amendments and obviously I'm in support of the bill since my name is on it as a cosponsor. I think it is essential that the Legislature, as I have said so many times in the past, place itself on a par with the other branches of government. The governor is able to hire whatever counsel he or she might need with reference to any issue pertaining to his or her duties. The Attorney General is able to hire any number of attorneys based on his or her budget, but the Legislature often is left vulnerable by having to go to others with whom often there is an adversarial relationship. The Attorney General's Office is political from the very outset because it is run for on a partisan basis. So whoever wins that office must first be a politician. Then being a lawyer comes in second. In many instances there are issues before the Legislature with which the Attorney General will publicly express disagreement. The disagreement is not from the standpoint of what is legal and lawful as opposed to the contrary, but rather a political philosophy being stated. So if a bill were to be presented with which the Attorney General disagrees on a political or philosophical basis, you would have to go to that same person to seek an opinion about the bill should a question arise. It is unwise for the chickens to go to Colonel Sanders to have their interests looked after. So as a legislature it would be wise for us to have individuals who will