

January 13, 1992 LB 228

handle our legal issues, possess expertise in legislative matters. We are not diminishing what any other branch of government can or is empowered under the Constitution to do. I am sensitive about this matter because I've always felt, as many of us did, that senators should be able to obtain expenses during session. For the new senators, that has not always been the case, so I offered a bill. The Attorney General said it was unconstitutional based on an Attorney General's Opinion given the year that I was born, 1937. We didn't believe it so we overrode the Governor's veto. The Attorney General's Office would not file actions so that we could get it in court so I then had to make public statements about the unwillingness of the Attorney General to file this action as he was supposed to and that I was going to initiate the lawsuit myself. After this kind of publicity the action finally was filed. We had to retain a lawyer of our own because the Attorney General had already taken a very hostile position, even writing in the brief that this bill would result and the plundering of the treasury leave the state, leave the state to wreck and ruin and things of that nature. So when that kind of adversarial relationship exists it is impossible to have the circumstances of trust that are to be existent between lawyer and client. As Senator Kristensen pointed out and Senator Conway before him, these committee amendments will not harm the integrity of the bill or the major purpose that we envision. So I hope you will adopt the committee amendments. I hope you then will support the bill because it is essential that the Legislature have counsel of its own in the same way that Congress, both houses, the Senate and the House. Other legislatures do this. It is essential that we have...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...legal counsel that we can trust over whom we have control and to whom we can go without there being an adversarial relationship based on political and philosophical differences.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Pirsch, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam Chairman, and I appreciate being able to speak on the amendments. At the time that you called on me I was not real clear what the amendments were, but I think that maybe we should call attention to exactly what they