

Attorney General said that is an unconstitutional act and so the Attorney General at that time proceeded to bring an action to declare it unconstitutional. Who represents the interest of the Legislature? Who stands behind it and says it is? It turns out that it is the legal counsel that is selected with the consent and the money of the Attorney General's Office. It is inherent conflict. It isn't anything about trust. It's a matter of institutional conflict. The Attorney General just plain has a different role than the Legislature. And in terms of eliminating the front end, I don't see Senator Pirsch here, there is nothing, I repeat, nothing in this that takes away from the power of the Attorney General. You can go to the Attorney General and ask everything in the world that you want to, front end, about opinions. You know what the response is going to be, until there is a piece of legislation, we will not give you an opinion on what to do. You still have bill drafters. We've got an excellent bill drafting staff. We're the envy of a lot of states with our bill drafters because of the assistance that you get up front. This is creating, much like our Research Division that is under the control of the Executive Board. If there is a danger here, the danger is in our own Executive Board that may either use or abuse that. I happen to think that the Executive Board will be able to provide some guidance and control over these matters. This is not going to take every bill into court. Those are things that you do if you don't have anything else to argue. Now at this point the legal counsel provides a very important feature and that's to protect the integrity of the body. You do not want people who have been legal counsel. I've got a very, very good legal counsel for the Transportation Committee. Trust him implicitly. I think he is excellent. But he doesn't live in the courtroom. He doesn't procedurally go to court every day. He doesn't put out subpoenas for witnesses. He doesn't appear before the Nebraska Supreme Court. He doesn't write those briefs because that is not his job and his training. We're talking about something that can protect the integrity of the Legislature in those few areas where we're required to defend ourselves. Now you're immune because you are a senator. What about your staff? What happens if somebody would like to find out a low-level nuclear waste area all the things that you have for information in your office or your committee and they can use that for other litigation? They can subpoena your staff. They can file suits directly against them. Those are things that as this Legislature becomes more professional, takes on more national issues you are going to face and you need somebody to protect you and you want people who go there day in