

is on the right track. Let's cut spending and let's be serious about cutting spending, then this will overlap on local government and when they see that the state is quitting mandating services and quitting mandating that local government does this sort of thing, they, too, can cut down on their spending. But it's awfully hard to be a member of a body that mandates to local government, you shall do this and then not provide the money. I'll give you a prime example. Here a few years ago a bill was introduced to have mandatory retirement for county employees. The Legislature mandated to the counties that they would have a retirement system. The Legislature said, you shall have one. It did not provide the funds but it says you're going to have one and the bill passed. And, sure enough, according to the law, all counties now have a retirement system. Where did they get the money? They raised taxes.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HABERMAN: The county boards had the authority to put in a retirement system before we mandated it, but that didn't make any difference, we're going to mandate it anyway. This has to cease. So I support what Senator Dierks is trying to do and maybe with some changes to his amendment I could support that also. But I can't support it in the present form. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Amendments on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Schmit would move to amend Senator Dierks' amendment. (Read the Schmit amendment as found on page 1266 of the legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairman and members of the body, I offer the amendment because Senator Dierks, in his proposal, strikes the entire budget for the office of the ombudsman. In 1969 we created the office of the ombudsman and it has been a very effective assistance to the citizens of this state and a very effective office for state government. It's kind of interesting that one of the original opponents to the bill, Senator Robert Clark, after a few years added an amendment that created an ombudsman for Corrections, and that office has functioned for many years and functioned very efficiently and has, I think,