

take a second look at it. I'd like to also note I got the summary from the 1991 activity report on the government fraud and abuse hot line that the Auditor has where over 900 calls were sent in to talk about fraud and abuse. Three hundred and ninety-three cases were open, 285 cases were closed, 108 thus remained active and out of all those that had been reviewed 23 cases were judged to be found reports of government waste, fraud or abuse. All right, 900 calls, 903 cases, 23 cases of waste, fraud or abuse. There's another 19 cases, I guess, referred to other agencies for some activity. Well, we're glad for that and we're glad...glad to see that activity, but I think the idea that state government is rampant with waste, fraud and abuse I think has to be squelched at this point, that we may have some problems and we need to identify those and investigate every chance we get to reduce the cost to government and improve the efficiency, but I think the image and reputation of government, at the federal level, waste, fraud and abuse may be a serious problem and appears to be, but at the state level, the initial reports I see from this hot line would indicate it's not a very big problem and I'm glad to hear that. If there are problems out there we certainly want to take care of them, but I think having the legislative branch carrying out this function is the appropriate way to go and so I would oppose this amendment and urge support for LB 988.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, rise to oppose Senator Schimek's amendment. At the same time I'd like to applaud Senator Schimek, as well as the State Auditor, for continuing to press that some of this activity needs to occur. I think we're all in agreement in that. I know Senator Schimek introduced this bill at the Auditor's request last year and I think, you know, in many ways that was part of a variety of people that are interested in this whole area of this type of financial audit and performance review audit and I think, you know, they have helped that along. Obviously, I always...I want to point out that in the years prior to my own of my years as a member of the Appropriations Committee and now as chairman, I had always been inquiring about what role the Performance Review and Audit Committee had done in the past and obviously in recent years that in many ways has outlived its function, and I was glad when Senator Warner, as chairman of the Executive Board,