

really for purposes of travel. There's been very little use of the office for purposes of dealing with communication, interaction, development of relationships with other governmental entities. It just hasn't functioned in the capacity that I think the original introducers intended for it to. What it has evolved into is an administrative function for purposes of legislative travel, and that is the sum and substance of the duties. The purpose behind the bill is to just strip that capacity from the statutes, and in effect by rule and reg, which we could do right now through the Exec Board, transfer those duties to other areas, that being the Exec Board for purposes of travel, the Accounting Division under the Exec Board deals with that currently right now. The Exec Board has the ability, the responsibility to deal with any appeals on travel right now. They're intimately involved in that process as it exists today. The other portion of it is the appointment of various individuals to committees. It currently is a bifurcated system as well. Part of that responsibility lies in the Speaker's office, part of it lies with Intergovernmental. With the passage of 307 you put all of that under the legislative rules and policy over to the Speaker's office. We basically do away with the committee. We cut a committee out of our system. It does mean there is one less chairmanship. I do not believe that it empowers a smaller group of people with more individual power. Currently, as it was pointed out, when we first debated this on General File the other day, that there are 14 committee...standing committees, there are 4 other special committees that function, and then there's the Exec Board which is one of those standing committees, but actually is not a standing committee for purposes of our traditional issues. So you're talking about 19 committees that are either standing or special, that means there's 19 different chairmanships, that means that there are a number of folks who serve in those capacities. You also have the Exec Board, which is elected by individual caucuses. There's eight additional people in that capacity. That brings us up to 27 people who are, out of 49, who are intimately involved in the working of the Legislature that deal directly with the policy issues of the body, the Exec Board more directly with the administration...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...and administrative function of the Legislature. I don't think that this change does anything except say this committee is really no longer needed and we