

public, to deceive the public? This is not one of those areas where there is confidential information of a kind that can damage an individual. This is talking about a policy and a constitutional question. Regardless of what the Attorney General may say, a court is not bound by a decision or determination of the Attorney General. And based on the number of cases that the Attorney General loses, it's clear that the Attorney General often takes a position that is contrary to that of the law as laid down by the courts. I would like to ask Senator Beutler a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Beutler, what is it that would really be, other than saying that somebody might bring a lawsuit?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What is actually harmful to the state's interest if this information, this determination were to be made public? And maybe a minute isn't long enough, but you can take all of it if you need it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator, my main concern is with respect to lawsuits and the ability of the public to be protected in terms of the position that the public has taken. You know, the public, I guess in my view of the matter, acts not directly in these matters, but acts through the Legislature and through the Governor. Those are the elected officials. And if this Legislature has in a particular instance passed a law that tests the limits of the constitution, for example, as almost all of us have proposed to do with one bill or another, I doubt if there is a senator in here that can't think of at least one bill...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that they've...thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Janssen would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature today. There are 45 fifth graders from Clarkson Elementary School in Fremont, Nebraska and their teacher. They are in the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome. Senator Jones, your light is next.