

it being known. But if the auditor or anybody asks me what I talked about, I'll say none of your business. And then there are other numbers, and they will say, well, what was this number for. I will say, well, I am not going to discuss it with you. And they might say, well, it is not confidential, so what was the nature of it? I tell them every call I make is with reference to my duties as a legislator, and that is all I will tell you. And it is up to them, if they think I am committing crimes to go get some judge to believe...accept the notion that there is probable cause to believe that I've committed a crime because I mark off calls as being confidential. Don't let the auditor or anybody bully you. We, as a Legislature, have been pussyfooting for too many years, and as a result, we don't get the respect and consideration that the work which we do entitles us to. So if we are unwilling to stand up for ourselves, consider the welfare and interest of your constituents. There have been various agencies of government and subdivisions audited by the auditor's office, and as one of my colleagues mentioned, there is a tendency for him to stir things up, want a whole lot of information about this and that, and then just sit on it. Because once the headlines are obtained, that is the end of the interest. Well, he can play that game with you all....

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because you will allow it. But I am not going to allow it. So the specific contents of this bill I am not able to discuss, but what I did get from Senator Hall and the words he indicated is that the aspects of confidentiality are not changed in any way by this bill, and I intend to mark off every call that I consider confidential. And if it gives the auditor ulcers, I'll just tell him, take a little shot of Pepto-Bismol, or maybe some Ex-Lax and we will get things moving and you will feel good again.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. No further lights on. Senator Hall, you are recognized, there are about two and a half minutes left for the consideration of this bill.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Again, the committee amendments incorporate the changes that were requested by the auditor. He did not testify at the hearing. I believe it was because he had no problem with the way the bill was written. The amendments that he offered have been incorporated in the committee amendments. I would urge their adoption.