

of whatever you bring in, the inclination is to puff what you've done, to reach beyond what you're justified in receiving, claim more than you're entitled to in order to increase the amount that you can obtain by way of your contingent fee. When...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Would like to recognize a guest of Senator Coordsen and Senator Maurstad in the north balcony. There are 75 fourth graders from Jefferson School in Fairbury along with three sponsors. Could you all stand please and be recognized. Mr. Clerk, I understand there's an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend his bill. The amendment is on page 2172 of the Journal. (See AM2219.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. We can now get into a discussion of the bill itself because this amendment will replace the entire bill and I hope that you will adopt this amendment so that we will have before us that which we're going to discuss. What the bill will consist of, and it's on page 2172, it starts, of the Journal, is a list of findings. These findings relate to contingent fee contracts and will explain and give assertions that encompass the attitude of the federal courts and the federal government with reference to contingent fee contracts when public money is involved, when public money is involved. This bill and nothing in it applies to contingent fee contracts between lawyers and their clients. That arrangement occurs in most instances because the client has a case but no money. The lawyer is willing to take the case based on the likelihood, in the lawyer's opinion, of winning enough or winning something and from that something will be taking a percentage to pay the lawyer's fee. So in that instance, we have a person with no money entering an arrangement whereby a service can be obtained in exchange for the promise to give up a percentage of what is obtained. Without that agreement the service would not be available. When it comes to the expenditure of public money the situation is entirely different. The state has the money, the wherewithal to pay the fee for the services rendered and I propose to go through this bill step by step so that everything is clear in terms of what I'm saying and I want it on the record because, despite what the Legislature says, the contract can be challenged, and if you spend some money which you were not