

originally in the bill, into the 1391 that we did advance. Subsequently, we heard additional information that Ms. Hansen was more active in the union than we had at first been led to believe and that, as Senator Dierks said, she was a union steward after she requested to have her union dues stopped and she also ran for the board of directors. Now it's my understanding that there is a window of opportunity for any union employee to request that they have their union membership curtailed, that they end that. Well, that was attempted in '91 but then not reattempted in '92 or in '93, so there were additional opportunities for Ms. Hansen to withdraw from the union which, I'm told, she did not do. So it seems to me that she had the opportunity to withdraw but did not take it and, at the same time, she was a union steward and active in the union and she also ran for the board. It seems to me that we should not be getting involved in this as much as this is an issue between Ms. Hansen and the union itself. If the money is to be given back, that should really be from the union. It should be between them and not that the state reimburses this amount of money to Ms. Hansen and the taxpayers end up paying it. It is not real clear-cut. There has been an Attorney General's Opinion, as Senator Dierks said. It is a situation that is not a real large amount of money, but I, at this point, am going to oppose the amendment and am not sure if any other committee members will state their opinions on it, but from my perspective I think that when we amended this back out of 1391 on General File we did what the Claims Board had did in denying it and what I'm going to stick with at this time. Thank you very much.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Coordsen, members of the Legislature, I guess I just don't understand this situation very well and I'd like to ask a few questions before I vote just to be sure I'm understanding it. Maybe I'll ask you, Senator Preister. You were on the committee?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Preister, would you respond to a question, please?

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: First of all, what does the 790-some dollars,