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LB 1448

find the final amount of money that is being asked under the...under LB 1448. With that, I ask for the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: We are now discussing the amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1448. Discussion on that amendment to the committee amendments, Senator Bruning.

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, Senator Vrtiska, I had a question for you, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Vrtiska?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, I will.

SENATOR BRUNING: Senator, I appreciate this list you put out. I guess my question is somewhat of a general question. We've got claims here from Donald Tedesco for representing the county of Deuel, \$535; claim by the Lincoln County Attorney, \$4,250. These are conflicts that the Attorney General's Office has, I understand that. It seems to me that some of these might be able to be done administratively. It seems a little odd that we have to take up the committee's time and the Legislature's time for a \$500 claim that is kind of ordinary course of business, a conflict of interest, and it needs to be paid, no question, but why does it have to come all the way here to get paid?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, Senator Bruning, I wouldn't disagree with you but this is the way the system works and we're required under the statute to review these claims after the Claim Board has already reviewed them and sent them to the Business and Labor Committee, and we're required to review them and determine whether, in fact, we want to allow them. Now, as you indicated, we probably don't have any choice in the matter, although you have to recognize last year we spent over two hours or three hours on the floor here discussing one claim that we had, in fact, had been denied and we decided to allow, and eventually did disallow, so it is a process that we're required to go through here in the Legislature, and it's for the purpose of reviewing and making certain that we're, in fact, following the letter of the law.