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SENATOR CHAMBERS: The National Guard, even though it was deemed by some people during shooting wars to be a haven for slackers, shirkers, and malingerers, nevertheless is deemed to be a military operation. Would you agree?

SENATOR VRTISKA: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The term "director" is not a military term. Would you agree?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I guess it's up to everybody's opinion. As I understand it, there was a director for many years, of the...in the National Guard. And as I indicated earlier, that was no...there was no longer anybody assigned to that position.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So if that was erased, why do we need a deputy director, when the Adjutant may appoint a deputy adjutant general, and other positions?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I guess you'd have to ask the National Guard. But...and as I indicated before, in talking to these people, we were pretty much assured that nothing would change. The only difference that's change is, we're now...the National Guard is our first line of defense in this country. And because it was many years secondary and was not the first line of defense, many of these positions were left unfilled because there was not considered a big need. Now that we've become the first line of defense in this country, they feel we need to gear up and have enough people to oversee the operations of the National Guard. And it takes, obviously, more people.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When I read the language that we're dealing with, it says, starting in line 11, "The Adjutant General"--and I'm going to read the amended language--"The Adjutant General may appoint a deputy adjutant general, a chief of staff of the Military Department, or a deputy director."

SENATOR VRTISKA: Now, it says "or," you under...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.