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oversight, and that mixture is somewhat dangerous. Now the only example I have about the legislative use of confidential records comes from a friend of mine who I have a huge amount of respect for--Vard Johnson. And it was not a violation of a confidentiality by the law. It was just the way we normally do business. Years ago, there was a big fight on the banking tax, and one of the banks said to Vard, look, if this is between us, we'll show you our tax record. The agreement was made it was confidential. Vard was going to look at the tax record and he was going to bring his arguments to the floor. Now, the outcome of that was this: Vard was shocked by what he saw; came to the floor of the Legislature and reported what he had just seen, okay; reported, in essence, a broken confidence, but not by the law, not by a Class III misdemeanor, but by what we normally do in this body, which is to give our word. And I asked Vard later on, because it surprised me, it kind of...it kind of really surprised me, and he said, look, it's true I did, but you know what, the issue was more important. And, by the way, we did change our tax...bank tax policy accordingly. He said the information was powerful enough, it really would make a difference; I knew I gave my word but it was so darned important I needed to share it with the world. He did. We changed the law. We taxed banks more. We may like that outcome, but here is the problem. At the heart of it was a track record that was compromised because a senator said to himself, you know what, public policy is more important than the confidentiality. Public...now, the public records...Public Auditor didn't have that problem because they're ministerial. The Department of Revenue doesn't have a problem. We have that problem because we're senators.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: We have a foot on the dock and a foot in the boat. And what I'm saying is, until there's a clear signal, until there's a clear showing, I think we can let those who are ministerial do the job of seeing whether we're doing tax records right, and then over here it seems to me that we can debate the public policy. I am nervous about mixing the ministerial function and the policymaking function and, for me, I'd have to say that the standard that I've got for tax confidentiality in