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March 16, 2005 LB 588

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's a serious penalty.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Think we've come down to what Senator Landis, I think, has accurately pointed out, is that this balance of authority. And, again, I want to emphasize that it was my perception that this turf battle was over a little while ago. Because if the Legislature needed access to something that only the Auditor had, they'd go through the Auditor, and vice versa. I think that's a livable situation. When we compare ourselves to other states, we need to compare everything, and that is where there's an auditor there's truly an auditor, and when there isn't an auditor and there's a function within the legislative branch, then they have some different authority. We have a Auditor, a statewide official within the executive branch that is accountable to all Nebraskans, not a pocket of 34,000 in a particular area of the state, and I think, based on the fact that some of these policies of what the Auditor can and cannot do, we have to be honest and talk about the fact that some of those duties were changed because the Legislature didn't like what a former Auditor was doing. And I hesitate to say that it is a good idea to fashion policy around a personality, but nonetheless that's done and we should move on. But to reach back into those situations and try to adopt policy now I think gives us a even more complex situation when we talk about authority, and especially in dealing with confidential records. If our concern is about the mischief that a particular person could engage in, given their authority, I think that there's more accountability within the executive branch for someone who answers to all Nebraskans, not, as I said a moment ago, a pocket of 34,000 people, as we represent in our various districts. That's a concern that I have. And I think that we can carry on with the current policy but to expand the powers to one or two members of the Legislature, I think, is not the right thing to do, and it certainly blurs the separation of powers that I think is missing in this argument. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Chambers, on LB 588 and the committee amendments to it.