

Ladies and gentlemen, the watch dog is a show dog, cares not about getting into the issue of training for the fight in terms of looking after the fiscal welfare of the state, only cares about primping and grooming for the next political battle. And when you look at the chronology that was put together by the Exec Board staff on the issues that we handed out to you the other day in your boxes on how th's has progressed over literally the last two years, you can very clearly see that there is no intent on the part of the Auditor to basically, as he purports, have good government or protect the interests of the citizens. As a matter of fact, this same Auditor who, on one hand, when testifying in front of the Executive Board, telling us how he needed to audit our records because there was clearly very likely an abuse of the use of phones in the Capitol for private purposes, walked from the table, where he was testifying, around and handed a note to a Page and asked that the Page call his wife, tell her to meet him at the bar because he was going to be late. He mocks the very system that he purports to uphold. And when he mocks that system he doesn't mock you and I, he mocks the people that we represent. He mocks the citizens of this state who have given the Legislature the power and the authority through...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...the Constitution to determine what the role of that Auditor is. That's exactly what the issue is here. It is a political one. It is..it is an issue of what is the worst in government when you have an elected official who stands up, blows up his chest and purports to be doing what is in the best interests of all citizens. We have wasted innumerable amounts of time and money and effort on this issue. I would urge you to oppose this amendment. This amendment, if adopted, basically guts the bill. It guts the bill because you have an Attorney General's Opinion already that says that there is constitutionally suspect the issue of whether or not the Auditor can be kept from auditing our records in terms of the language that's currently in statute.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR HALL: Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to be in court under any conditions. We need to go to court under our conditions, that being 579 in its present form. I would urge you to reject the Landis amendment.