

submit to the critic, because the critic is a minority and we represent the majority. We represent the people in this state and we have to protect those people. We have to protect them from small-minded people like the Auditor who literally and figuratively is one of the smallest men in state government that I have ever met. We talk about the smell test and whether we have to pass it for purposes of an audit. Senator Vrtiska says he spent 24 years on the county board, yet we do not require counties to use the State Auditor. We let them contract with private, outside CPA firms. And I would argue and I don't think there would be much disagreement that county government is probably the most respected form of government or level of government that we have in this state and we trust them to an outside CPA firm. We say that that is fine, you don't have to contract with the State Auditor. We respect the ability, the integrity, the professional nature of an outside CPA firm for purposes of conducting an audit. We don't feel that that is going to erode the confidence of the public. As a matter of fact, it's gone on for years and that has not happened. I was listening to someone speak the other day, Senator Landis, and he quoted Karl Marx, and Marx said, that only a fool writes cookbooks for the kitchens of the future. In other words, as much as I would like to be able to say that I know I have to deal with whoever comes down the pike as the Auditor, I know I have to deal with whoever comes down the pike as the Governor, the fact of the matter is the Legislature is the power and the authority for establishing what transpires in those offices, in many cases, and to the great extent virtually everything that happens in the Auditor's office. By law, it says in the Constitution, as established by law, by the Legislature, that's our responsibility. We determine, we dictate and we have an opportunity here through this amendment to choose which policy course we're going to take. I would argue, ladies and gentlemen, that we have no choice but to reject the Landis amendment and go forward with this because, as Senator Warner clearly pointed out, as much as I want to make it a political issue, it is a legal one and we will be in court if it is in the form of the Landis amendment or in the form of LB 579 or the current statute as it exists, because this is the systematic approach by this individual to use the Legislature as a whipping boy or whipping post for whatever political game he may have intended. That's all it is. Look at the chronology. Look at what's coming down the pike. We're talking about our expenses. We're talking about our parking spaces. We're talking about some of the most minute areas of expenses...