

thinks in a coffee shop, that's what the facts are, that's what the bill does. And perception easily becomes fact if you let it. I heard one critic of this body say, who I very rarely agree with, but said, the whole thing is a tempest in a teapot. The whole thing is a tempest in a teapot and clearly the Legislature has the ability and not only the ability but the constitutional right to argue that they are a separate and distinct branch of government. They have the ability to determine their own fate. Now the people can think whatever they want, and they will at the polls, but the fact of the matter is, ladies and gentlemen, you don't make policy based on what an editorial writer says or prints. You do it on what is a good standard that this body debates and then has the necessary votes to pass into law. That's how it's done. Yeah, you consider those things. You let the editorials pile up and maybe you wallpaper the closet with them, I don't know, but you sure as heck don't give them the same weight as you do constituents when you go out and talk to them and explain the issue to them. That's where your responsibility lies. That's where the disclosure lies, in talking to people and saying, hey, look, this is how it works, this is what the bill does. It opens the Legislature up to a minimum audit at least every other year. The last time it happened was five years ago. It says we've got to report and give every sensitive call that we make, that there has to be a report made to the public of the total dollar expenditure for telephone records. That's what the bill does. The bill goes above and beyond any other requirement of any other entity in government. It puts us above the rest in terms of being accountable, in terms of disclosing. It does nothing to set the Legislature apart or provide for immunity. It sets an example for the state, frankly, that's just what it does through 579. It sets an example for everyone else in terms of how we are going to treat the phone records. We're going to say that they're going to be available, they're going to be disclosed, and, yes, those confidences that we have to hold in trust, we intend to do that. But we have the right to do that, I believe, we have the responsibility to do that. I would urge you to reject Senator...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...Chambers' amendment and then Senator Landis's amendment as well.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Before we proceed, I