

some time left to complete audits, we have 10 documented cases of counties contracting with the State Auditor. Now my question is, since we are appropriating one whole heck of a lot of money for the operation of that office, why is there a declining perception apparently from these statistics of capability to conduct a competent independent audit of local government. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Lynch. Senator Hohenstein.

SENATOR HOHENSTEIN: Madam President, members of the body, I was the principal drafter of the amendment regarding the confidentiality, and proposed that, and Senator Hall and Senator Chambers looked at it and then signed on. That was approved I think unanimously and then the body advanced 579 from General File to Select File. When we did that, there was really two things that I was after, and that was the ability to change a system so that we had the right to maintain some confidentiality of some calls, but I think, frankly, I've spoken to the Auditor of Public Accounts and he has advised me that basically everything else in the bill, despite the Attorney General's opinion, he has no objection with. And the second thing that we tried to do there was to provide some public accountability. I think that the amendment does that. I think that the first amendment does that. I guess I am not sure how we can argue that the Landis amendment gives us something that 579 does not already give us. I just, we have forgotten about that, it has been so long. I just want to read this to you. This is what we have to do. The Executive Board shall, at the conclusion of the audit performed, prepare a report detailing the amount of expenditures of public funds made by each member of the Legislature, the total amount of long-distance phone calls made by each member of the Legislature, and the total amount of such calls designated by a member as sensitive or confidential. That report shall be reviewed by each member of the Legislature, and that report, after review, shall be made public by the Executive Board. Everybody in the State of Nebraska will know everything they want to know about the calls, the amount of calls, the total number of confidential calls, it will be there. Now the Landis amendment says, essentially, that we get somehow more accountability because we have the Public Auditor do this, and I don't buy it. I don't buy it because I spoke...previously I spoke with the Auditor and I spoke with the people of the Board of Accountancy and I said, how many CPAs do you have on your