

Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, Senator Hall, I would like to ask you a question, please.

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR ROBINSON: It was brought to my attention from another senator that if this bill passes, in the Executive Committee, it's their decision whether the State Auditor or an independent auditing firm would audit, whatever, the Legislature. The Legislature has an audit, I guess basically we are talking about phone bills. This person asked me why shouldn't we have an option of having the Auditor do that or an independent auditing firm. I would like your reaction to that, please.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Robinson, I am not sure I understand. Are you asking that each individual member have the option...

SENATOR ROBINSON: But...go ahead, excuse me.

SENATOR HALL: Are you asking that each individual member would have the option of choosing whether it be done by the Auditor or an independent auditing firm?

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah, that's my question.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Robinson, outside of the problems you'd create administratively, I think that, and because of the different, very likely the different auditing practices and procedures that would be used, it would be necessary to require that one or the other be done for all members of the Legislature. Again, that would be something that the Exec Board would have to deal with. Now, say, for example, the Exec Board chose to use an outside CPA firm, there is nothing that...as a matter of fact, it is clearly spelled out in the bill that there is nothing to prohibit an individual member from turning over his records to the Auditor, his telephone records, if he chooses, and you would have that ability to make your records available to the Auditor. The problem is that for uniformity sake and the ability to make sure that the same standards were carried out for each individual member, it would be necessary that you'd submit also to that private outside firm, if that was the route that the Exec Board chose to go.