

February 1, 1973

authorize the expenditure of this amount of money and once again this is one of the most important, if not the most important bits of money that you can approve and appropriate for this particular study. It is absolutely, in my opinion, necessary and we ought to get on with it immediately.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Nore, next Senator Stahmer. Did you wish to be heard Senator Stahmer? We have before us Senator Carpenter's motion to adopt a proposal for computer study. Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, members of the body, I, number one, agree with Senator Carpenter's recommending here. But I do think there are two aspects to this and I don't think we ought to lose sight of the second aspect. I think computers in government are getting to be and are--will be, as a matter of fact, the fourth arm of government. We've had the three branches before and I think we are now going to have a fourth branch and it is the mechanical brain. And not only do we need mechanical brains to serve government because government is getting so big and complex, we also need the neutralization of that brain and to agree that brain is neutral and not controlled by any one agency of government, I'd say it will serve the people. To whatever degree it is controlled by one agency of the government, I have severe doubts. And I think this ought to be part of the whole recommendation, that we not only consider the bringing together of computerization all across the state, but making sure that it is indeed the neutral fourth branch of government and that not one branch of government dominates it.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members of the body, I happened to have charge of a DAS study on the Interim Study Committee. Now, we were going into the accounting. I am not an accountant. The fact is, I'm pretty lucky if I can balance my check book. So, the way I set the thing up in the first place was to get a bunch of experts, CPA's, to go through the entire accounting, to find out, to be unbiased. The fact is, two of them were from DAS. We really had a good hearing on it. We're going to have a bill in to implement that particular field. I'll certainly agree with Senator Carpenter. The only way is to get some expert advise. I don't know anything about computers and the only thing I get is fragmented information from other people that we're not doing the right thing. Now, I would certainly wholeheartedly support a \$16,500 appropriation for this field. The only thing we have had before us before is about \$30,000 or \$40,000 and I'm really surprised that we can get it done for this and I'd certainly support it.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion of the motion. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would also like to support the motion. I think most of us now recognize we have a good computer system. We're concerned that any changes brought about will not disrupt a good system, but I think we do need an independent review of the various proposals that have been considered. We've got to be concerned of compatability of systems and I think that that review and I'm sorry, Senator Carpenter, in your closing I did not hear all your remarks. I was out of the chamber for a moment. In fact, I would like to ask Senator Carpenter a question.

SPEAKER: Senator Carpenter, will you yield to a question.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Carpenter, did -- is the proposed person to do the study an independent concern or is it through the Council of State Governments personnel?