

SPEAKER: Senator Maresh, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Sorry about that. Maresh, I didn't mean Marsh. Would you please explain to me what your amendment does that Highway Patrolmen can't do right now assigned to the Agriculture Committee or the Agriculture agency that you are talking about. When you put your amendment in, the highway patrolmen could do exactly what you are talking about.

SENATOR MARESH: Well, the present language says he shall enforce only the laws of the Department of Agriculture so this does away with that language and gives him more broad powers where he can, if he sees some other violation of any law of the state he would know that it is his duty to enforce this law too.

SENATOR BARNETT: That is what I am saying. It makes him into a State Patrolmen, doesn't it?

SENATOR MARESH: No.

SENATOR BARNETT: He has traffic laws to check on. He has drug laws, that you mentioned, to check on. He has traffic accidents that he will be in charge of. What is the difference between this man and the one that you are proposing with your amendment.

SENATOR MARESH: I think he would be what it says, a deputy state sheriff and I think a deputy state sheriff had broad powers and this man would not. He would..his duties would be spelled out by the law.

SENATOR BARNETT: Ya, all laws. That's what you say. All laws. He shall protect and follow all laws.

SENATOR MARESH: Right.

SENATOR BARNETT: That's all of them. Which..that's not just what they were trying to do in the bill. This is exactly what I'm afraid of in this bill. Is exactly what you are trying to do. You are assigning a policeman to the Agriculture Department. That is all you're doing with your amendment and in some respects I say the bill is doing this too, but you are doing exactly what I was afraid of.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Whitney, then Syas, Keyes, Marsh. Senator Whitney, we are still speaking on the Maresh amendment.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I would have a feeling that possibly this amendment should be rewritten. As I understand it, it strikes out everything after the word "office" in line 10. Is that what it does? And I'm thinking possibly this amendment that has been put on may have..may prevent this special investigator from doing what the bill originally intended and I think that's what Senator Barnett has in mind. Isn't that right, Senator Barnett?

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney, are you directing a question to someone?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes. I think Senator Maresh should withdraw the amendment and then, possibly, think it over a little more before this amendment is attempted to be put on because I think it is doing something here that the introducer of the bill did not intend.

SPEAKER: Senator Maresh, do you care to respond?

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I so move to withdraw my amendment. Thank you.