

March 8, 1974

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. It's kind of an exercise in futility to go through the Budget Committee. Perhaps what we really should do is have the entire Legislature hear all of the testimony that we hear, then we wouldn't be wasting our time to do it. This same subject came up at our Budget Committee. It's the responsibility of the Attorney General to do this. The Attorney General says he does not have time to do it. So we added three more attorney generals, to take care of this problem. Not only this one, there's about four or five others that have the same problem. So, all he has to do is be there one day a month and this is \$14,000...when the Attorney General should be doing it. The other 28 or 29 days of the month, the Attorney General can be using the man for something else. So I certainly vote against the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, members of the Body. I would suggest that Senator Carpenter have an alternative. Perhaps because as Senator Clark mentioned, there are these three new attorney generals added for all these smaller agencies. If he desired one specifically for this commission, one of the...that could be earmarked in the bill. Of the three members we now have, they could just earmark to have one of those three serve this commission if he so desired because I think adding a fourth one would perhaps give us more attorney generals than we need. So I would just offer that as a suggestion to Senator Carpenter.

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy, Skip, Senator Clark, will you turn off your light? No one else, no, there's another one. Senator Simpson.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I also would oppose this motion. We did go through this and this is one of the agencies I heard in sub-committees. We had a bunch of others. Everyone wants their own attorney. We brought in the Attorney General and talked to him about it and they said they were having a problem with him in getting the assistance they needed as far as law. He said if we put on the new people, put them on his staff, that they would take care of the problem. We have shown in the budget bill that these people are put on primarily for the purposes of the different agencies that ask for additional help and so there is that direction within the budget bill. I think that the Attorney General said it right when he said the people running the agencies no longer want to be responsible for what they're being paid. They want to put it off to an attorney and so they want him sitting on their lap while they do it. Now, I think that we should not proliferate attorneys into all the agencies of state government. Let's put them under the Attorney General where they belong and then make sure that they're helping the agencies when they need it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. I'd like to ask Senator Carpenter a question...if he'll yield.

PRESIDENT: Do you yield?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Certainly.