

stationary supplies, something related to the profession. Maybe it could be in the law book business. But it's moving into the prepaid legal insurance and that's a commercial venture. The people that are supposed to regulate the profession are now finding themselves having to regulate their own commercial venture. That's the first concern. The second concern is that the dues are mandatory...that all attorneys pay into the Bar Association, and those mandatory dues will be used to set up the prepaid legal insurance company. Now I asked Larry Ruth of the Bar Association, couldn't you have a special dues or special fee just for those attorneys who want to work with the prepaid legal insurance program...just those who would benefit it, just those who are in private practice? He says, no, that's not workable and you're interfering with the Supreme Court's ability to decide how dues will be used. I said, and I have a second amendment that said, well what about prohibiting the use of your dues money for advertising, for staffing, for supporting directly or indirectly this commercial venture? He says, no that would tie our hands too much. We need to be able to use our dues money in order to set up this commercial venture. Well Senator Johnson worked out with him a third amendment but it's very narrow and it's very limited. All it says is they can't use their dues money to help capitalize the company, but they want to be able to use these mandatory dues to advertise the company, to put it together, to administer it, or whatever. Now let's say you're a private business man and you want to get into prepaid legal insurance. You will find yourself at a competitive disadvantage because the State Supreme Court is requiring attorneys to pay money into your competitor. What I'm saying with the amendment is, if the Bar Association wants to change from a noble professional organization that is regulating itself, if it wants to move into commercial ventures, that's fine, but then they should give up the pretense of being the regulatory body and they should stop requiring mandatory dues. That's the concept of the amendment, and I think Senator DeCamp is concerned because the Bar Association working with the Supreme Court is going to tell this Legislature that we can't get involved in this issue. They're going to say, we decide everything that goes into the legal profession, you can decide nothing, and that I think is why Senator DeCamp is nervous about it, but I agree with Senator Chambers that maybe it's time we test whether this Legislature has a certain right to police this profession like we can police every other profession. So I would move for adoption of this amendment.