

When I got there the Constitutional Revision Committee said, we kind of like the bill, but we don't like it as a constitutional amendment, why don't you do it as a statute? I said, I don't care how it is done, I just want to get it done. But I've got a little problem here because you see I have this resolution, constitutional resolution. Well, Senator DeCamp came along with one of his less meritorious bills and the committee decided that that bill was going to be killed. As the ax was lifted, I asked them to hold it and I went and talked to Senator DeCamp, and I said the ax is about to come down on your little park authority bill and I would like to have your permission to use it for my auditor bill because I need it in bill form instead of in resolution form. So Senator DeCamp was gracious enough to say, okay, and at that point in time the committee lifted it out of LR 22 and put it into this particular bill, lifted it out of the resolution and put it into the bill, and that is how it is coming to you today. Obviously, it did have a public hearing before the Constitutional Revision Committee. For those of you who would like to look and see how the public hearing went, and who was there, and such things, it is LR 22 in your books. So that is essentially what happened. I have much to say about the bill, of course, but I hope at this point in time you will simply adopt the committee amendment, which is the bill, and get it into the bill, and then we can discuss the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is one of those bills that I have opposed every time its come before any committee of which I was a member. You are talking about an elective office, and you are saying if you adopt this amendment that that office should be restricted to one profession. It should be given to them and to them only. The Constitution, remember, does not require the Attorney General to be a lawyer. The Constitution does not require a member of the State Supreme Court to be a judge. There are statutes that the courts have gotten in that require certain things of that nature. But the position of judge is not strictly elective. At the election, so-called that they have, it is really a matter of ratification or repudiation, but the judge does not run against an opponent. So that is not an elective position, strictly speaking. If you accept this amendment, in effect you are saying that the CPAs should own this office, that