

May 17, 1985

LB 401

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'd simply move to return the bill for the amendment we've been discussing for so long.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, simply to say, do read the bill. If you think it doesn't put second-guessing in the hands of the public counsel, then you are not reading the bill. It does, and it does change the system very clearly. That really doesn't matter whether you adopt or don't adopt the Beutler amendment. It is obvious you are going to adopt it, but just go back and check how many times we passed new laws where we say, gosh, we have to have somebody inform on somebody and then have a system to see who is telling the truth, and immediately, immediately you do bring in, whether you want to call it a court system or whatever, you bring in the hearings, you bring in the lawyers, you bring in the whole works and I don't think any agencies are going to be able, long-term as you develop these systems, to function sufficiently. You weaken their efficiency. No, it isn't going to be the end of the world or anything else. It is going to be bad policy.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I haven't said anything on the bill, but I think it goes a lot deeper than any of us think it does because they are going to hire more staff and another Ombudsman. You are opening up the field to everything and anything. As Senator DeCamp has said, read the bill and see what it says. It is not a good bill. If it was a good bill, it would have passed long time ago. They have been at this for a long time. So I just ask you to consider what you are doing, think what you are doing because once you get it passed you are not going to get it changed. They can promulgate rules and regulations. They can set up how they are going to do anything they want to, and we are going to lose complete control over the situation. So, therefore, I ask you not to support the amendment, not to support the return, and not to vote for the bill on Final Reading. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.