

SPEAKER NICHOL: What did you say?

SENATOR HIGGINS: I said speaking as a nonpartisan Democrat, the World Herald says we are nonpartisan, then after our names they always put what we are registered, so I want to make it clear I'm a nonpartisan Democrat. I have enough confidence in our partisan appointed Republican Attorney General. If we are paying them to do a job, and as Senator Beutler pointed out, he is not that close to the case. I don't want to spend a half a million dollars just like that. But I also don't want to go chasing a wild goose and keep going and spend more money in pursuing it. Now the Attorney General's office and I may disagree on opinions on bills in here, especially when he doesn't agree with me, but that is what he's being paid for, the same as if I hired a private attorney. What is the point in hiring a private attorney if you're going to turn around and do the opposite of what he tells you? They study the case, they know the case, so I would recommend we get on with it and accept Senator Warner's amendment and the Attorney General's office best judgement. Time may prove them wrong, but on the other hand it is going to cost a lot more money, I think, to pursue it. That was the point they were making also. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Warner, a question please. Is this claim that we are talking about now, these two claims, have they gone through the usual procedure of claims through the Legislature?

SENATOR WARNER: This type of claim comes to the Appropriations Committee traditionally and has been handled the same other than normally it is not quite this tight a time frame in which we have to react to it. It's been a couple of days and we had some other things on our mind.

SENATOR HABERMAN: What difference is this between the claims that goes to Senator Barrett's committee?

SENATOR WARNER: He gets primarily, as I recall, claims that the State Claims Board deals with. This does not go through the State Claims Board as such. They were...