

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. You would have no increase for those offices at all then?

SENATOR RUPP: For the three that I mentioned, Public Service, Treasurer, Lieutenant Governor.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. I would like to rise in support of the Rupp amendment and I would also encourage Senator Rupp to perhaps not have an increase for the Auditor. As you know, previously legislation has been introduced to eliminate the offices of Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer and Auditor. Frankly, those three offices have always been of concern as to whether or not they are important or not in terms of the state government. To provide for salaries of 55,000, as this bill would provide, has concerned me. At the same time, I have always supported adequate salaries for different public employees. I think that is important. But, truly, we have to raise questions, as Senator Rupp has, about the legitimacy of some of these offices. The State Treasurer, we did have a bill to try and move that under the Executive Branch. That office used to be important and used to do a great deal of work and now it really doesn't do a whole lot. In fact, there is still concern about whether we need a Treasurer at all in state government. The functions that they do perform could easily be taken over by the Department of Administrative Services and other departments. There was an effort a few years ago under Charlie Thone. We did look at that office and there was consideration of removing it as an elective office. The Auditor, we did have a bill on as well to move the auditing function under the Legislature. The auditing function of state government should be a legislative function. It is not an Executive Branch function as we now have it constituted. Most states and the federal government have the auditing function under the legislative branch. It is an oversight function that the Legislature, as the keeper of the purse of the state, ought to perform. It should not be in the present structure that it has. We have tried to change it. We haven't gotten the job done, but I really question whether or not we need a State Auditor and whether or not that ought to not be moved under the legislative branch. The Lieutenant Governor's office has always been a controversy, as Senator Rupp said, we have a bill to take the Lieutenant Governor out as the Presiding Officer. In years past, if you remember, Lieutenant Governor Crosby campaigned on the office being