

SENATOR WARNER: Since you indicated, Senator Schmit, you inquired of the Attorney General, I'm perfectly willing to go with his decision.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Warner. I think that it is important that we recognize and I would like to have those of you, if you're interested, I have copies of the statute, I have copies of the debate in 1969 and I have copies of the reports of the Ombudsman. I will circulate for each of you copies of the last two reports. I would ask you to study it. I would ask you to familiarize yourself with the Office of the Ombudsman. I can assure you that perhaps for the money invested, the office has performed very well. I think that it would be a serious mistake at this time to adopt the committee recommendation. I would ask you to support Senator Beutler's proposal.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Nelson, to address the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'll make this also very short. Being a new member of the Legislature and so on, I particularly have...I support Senator Beutler's amendment. If there is any office that I have had to use through my short term here, is the Ombudsman's Office and to me, that is the only voice that the person outstate or wherever can really go to when they cannot get local action from their local law enforcement and so on. And I think that all of us can still find that 3 percent some place or forgive that trip or that travel and I do ask you to keep that office.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if I'm incorrect, why Senator Beutler can correct me, but my impression, I don't have a copy of the amendment right now specifically, but understanding of it is what you're really talking about is not reducing the Legislative Council's budget by 171,000, that they ought to have an \$85,000 reduction, if you adopt this amendment. Now, I think...I would reflect the majority discussion in the Appropriations Committee, that the Legislature probably had to do the average percentage that it expected of other agencies, period. And what we then said was a vertical cut, the elimination of something, was probably the more likely way