

job is to handle complaints from those who are incarcerated in the prisons took on a senator, printed out and out lies about that senator, circulated them to the legislative body, but that is not why I don't think the Ombudsman's Office is not that necessary. If we need an Ombudsman's Office, we don't need 49 senators looking after their constituents. Some of their calls are nothing but, as they pointed out, information. If you have a staff of two people, don't you think they can find out where problems with their income tax ought to be referred? I get so many questions on, Senator, what about my social security cuts? My staff is smart enough and I'm smart enough to tell them, we don't have anything to do with that, let me give you Senator Exxon's or Senator Zorinsky's address or phone number. I think I just feel that as long as you have an Ombudsman's Office you can shuffle your people off onto them and not take a real interest in what concerns them. I don't think it's a necessary expense and I know it's Senator Schmit's baby and it isn't easy for me to stand up here and go against a good friend like Senator Schmit. But I really in my own mind cannot justify, and I remember Senator Haberman getting up here several years ago saying the same thing, that if we senators are doing our job, answering our constituents' calls and letters, we don't need an Ombudsman. And what do they do? They investigate complaints only on government agencies. They can't investigate a complaint about the Omaha Police Department or the Rhode Island Police Department or the Grand Island Police Department, I meant. They can only investigate complaints about state agencies and then they can't investigate a complaint about the Legislature, about the judges or about the Governor or his staff. So that leaves just a few agencies and if we aren't capable of handling those complaints when you divide them up among 49 senators, then there is something wrong with us. I understand what Senator Beutler is doing and I appreciate his remarks, too, that the Legislature should be listened to when it comes to the budget and I agree with him, it is not the sole property of the Appropriations Committee. But I think members of the Appropriations Committee have already stood up and said, whatever you vote, so be it. We have the Governor's recommendations now. We have the Appropriations Committee recommendations and we are beginning to have the Legislature's recommendations which I think is fine, three different bodies you might say...

SENATOR LAMB: Thirty seconds.