

Governor, the present Governor "Me too". But the fact is there are certain duties and responsibilities which I think should attach to the office of Governor whoever the person happens to be sitting there. There are election commissioners and there are election commissioners so to speak, but I'm not aware of anyone in Douglas County, which is the largest county, having been accused of inappropriate or manipulative action which could be based on an abuse of the authority that they had as an election commissioner. I don't see any need to change the present system. I don't think that having the Governor make the appointment is going to have an influence one way or the other on the outcome of any election, the number of people who would register, who would be allowed to register or who would be found not to be appropriately registered. So since none of the issues that would validly attach to operating the office of election commissioner will be affected negatively if we maintain the present system, I don't see any reason to change it. So I will also be one of those voting against Senator Pirsch's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Pirsch, do you wish to close?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, members of the body. I apologize for bringing this in. I didn't realize, until late last night, early this morning that 76 would be coming up today. But I do want to remind you that 90 counties' election commissioners are not appointed by the Governor, and they are elected officials appointed by the Board of County Supervisors or County Commissioners. When the Governor appoints an election commissioner in the three counties of Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy, it's a political appointment. It is not anyone elected, it is just simply who the Governor decides to appoint. Now, I'm sure on a good basis...I'm positive of that. And every Governor, not matter what party, has that opportunity to elect...or to appoint an election commissioner. But, again, those county board members would like to have that choice remain within the county, not be a political appointment, but, indeed, to be someone made by the county board, as it is in the other 90 counties. With that, I move the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. The issue before the body is the adoption of the Pirsch amendment to the committee amendments to LB 76. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.