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Mr. President, found on page 591 of the Journal.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Gavel) Thank you. The Chair recognizes the Chair of the Business and Labor Committee, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. It's a pleasure this morning to bring you the name of Fernando Lecuona III, who has been appointed as the...to head the Department of Labor. Mr. Lecuona currently is serving under appointment by Benjamin Nelson in 1997 and has been reappointed to continue that service to the people of Nebraska by present Governor Mike Johanns. I would ask for your vote for his confirmation. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You heard the opening. Debate on confirmation. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, because I was not at the hearing where this gentleman appeared, I did not have the opportunity to ask him whether he considers himself a white man, even though he would probably say he's a Hispanic because some Hispanics do consider themselves white. However, because I do not know for a fact that that's what he considers himself to be, I'm going to abstain this morning. I will not vote against this confirmation, and when we voted on it in the committee, I believe that I abstained at that point, too. So because I am not sure, I'm simply going to abstain, but that in no way means that I'm backing away from what I've established as my intent this session to vote straight across the board on certain categories of persons to be confirmed. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Further debate. Senator Vrtiska, you are recognized to close on the confirmation report. He waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation report of the Business and Labor Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the confirmation report offered by Business and Labor Committee.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The report is accepted. We next move to the confirmation report of the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance