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March 27, 2000 LB 1124

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Question is the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 1124. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. The amendments are agreed to.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Coordsen would move to amend with AM3052. (AM3052, Legislative Journal page 1307.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Coordsen, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. When LB 1124 was on General File, the committee amendments proposed that this be a six-person committee. At that time, during floor debate, I believe it was Senator Bromm that raised an issue with respect to the question of whether it was better policy to have an even-numbered or an odd-numbered committee, and I promised at that time to again rethink that process. Following the floor debate and the advancement of LB 1124, the people from the Nebraska Association of County Officials indicated that they thought it would be helpful if there was a provision that a county official, who had been a member of an Agricultural Land Valuation Advisory Board, either in past or present member, and had spent some time looking at the issues of how agricultural land was valued, would be a valuable addition. And about that same time then the Chair of Revenue Committee indicated an opinion that he thought that a county attorney who had experience in that field of ag land valuation would be also an appropriate member. So, to balance out, that gave us then eight. To come to nine I added one active farmer and that was my own thought process, given the differences in agriculture between the Missouri River and the Wyoming state line, that perhaps it would be helpful, particularly when looking at the income and expense side on an annual mechanism, that perhaps two would be more appropriate than one. And I would also say that, with respect to the county attorney, that language is an excerpt from the current language that applies to the qualifications of an attorney who is the Chair of the Tax Equalization and Review Commission, and it says...it simply says a county attorney who has an understanding of appraisal processes and problems encountered in the valuation of real property. That, I stole that from another section of statute. With that, then, Mr. President, this amendment