

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 9, 2001

LB 465

the Legislature, created TERC and perhaps we can do the same, we can get rid of TERC, Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Vrtiska, on the Landis amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I am reluctant, as many are, to in an open forum discuss some of the problems that many of us, at least a good many of us feel, or on...in this full body feel is a problem with TERC. Now as you all know, and those that were here remember when we had a discussion about this, I don't know, four or five years ago and I was one of the people who objected to all of the members being attorneys, and I based my logic on the fact that being an attorney doesn't necessarily make you qualified...I said necessarily qualified to be in the appraisal business, and I felt at that time that an assessor or somebody who was in the field working with assessing would have some knowledge in that field. Now that doesn't mean that an attorney couldn't do it, but it was my feeling at that time, and Senator Kristensen says I was wrong, I would still object to having five attorneys as the board for any TERC simply because sometimes a practical sense of dealing with these issues with somebody who is certified in appraisal makes more sense to me than just saying that the fact that you're an attorney makes you all that wise in the field of appraisal. And that's no criticism against attorneys. It is just that it's a little different field. Now if you have to get into court, of course, that's a different story. I agree with Senator Engel that I served a good many years on a county board and we used to deal with these issues, but one thing I think needs to be said very plainly. Whenever you go to TERC or whenever you went to the county board and you didn't win, you always went home angry, and it happens now with TERC. If you go in with an issue that you think you're right and they tell you you're wrong, you don't go home very happy and that's always going to happen, but somebody has to make a decision. Now if they can base their decisions on sound judgment and fair judgment, then I don't think anybody has the right to complain. I am not going to stand up here and criticize the TERC board. I know there is some criticism, and that's to be expected whenever you are dealing with these kinds of issues, and we're never going to get away from it if we have