

March 29, 1979

LB 54

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to be clear on what is before the body. Is it an amendment to strike the independent member?

PRESIDENT: I believe that it, if I understood it correctly, it is to add a member to the commission who would be an independent.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right.

PRESIDENT: Is that correct, Senator Cullan?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is that what is before us now?
(Interruption.)

PRESIDENT: What is before us is the adoption of the committee amendments. Yes, sir. It is the committee amendments.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then, I will pass for now until I am sure.

PRESIDENT: All right. Now, Senator Cope, did you wish to speak on the committee amendments?

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I would oppose the committee amendments. I am a firm believer of a strong two-party system for this country and I think this could be a slight erosion of that. Another factor too when practically all elections and boards or elections anyway, are based now on one man, one vote, this is going to give the independent member much more power when you consider, and I believe someone said that it is about 5% of the people are independents. When you figure that if there is nine members they would each have about 11%. If it was equally divided and an independent that has a 5% membership still gets 11% power when it comes to numbers, I just don't think it is right so I would oppose the amendments on that basis.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh. Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Could I call the question?

PRESIDENT: We are ready for Senator Keyes to close if you just let him close. Senator Keyes, you may close.