

a civil engineering degree could qualify?

SENATOR STONEY: Well, again I am relying on the information that came from the State Board of Examiners, and their indication was that any person that presently holds the job that would be concerned about grandfathering, could come before the Board, petition the Board, and through an oral or written examination qualify in that particular area of engineering.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Okay, now how about a new candidate? Somebody that has never held office before who is not a civil engineer? Would he be eligible if your amendment were adopted?

SENATOR STONEY: Well, I think if the amendment were adopted he would have to have that qualification as a civil engineer prior to the time that he accepted that office.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Okay. Thank you, Senator Stoney. Now, I have serious reservations about this amendment. Frankly, I think the committee language is too restrictive. The committee language says you can't run for county engineer in Douglas County unless you are a registered professional engineer. Now think of all the people we are eliminating from that job. This is an elective position. Anybody in the county can run for that, but under this particular bill they are limited to registered professional engineer. Now, Senator Stoney's language would further restrict it to not only registered professional engineers but also registered professional engineers who are civil engineers. Now, this reminds me of the debate we had last session when we were talking about whether the state auditor should have to be a CPA, and a lot of people said that the state auditors shouldn't necessarily have to be CPAs because if we put that kind of a restriction we are going to be eliminating 99.9 percent of the people in the State of Nebraska from holding that office, and I have serious reservations about restricting it without better cause shown, without a committee hearing, without some idea that it is necessary. Now, let's think for a moment too about the kind of functions that the county engineer is going to have in Douglas County. He is going to be called upon to make planning decisions, whether they are transportation planning decisions, or city general planning decisions. I would think somebody who is a specialist in construction science might be just as qualified. Somebody who is a specialist in other kinds of engineering from just civil engineering might also be qualified for the job, and I think it would be a mistake to