

the motion to advance but I would hope there would be some discussion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, clear the board. Okay, the discussion is the adoption of committee amendments 1 and 2 to LB 109. Senator Kremer, the Chair recognizes you.

SENATOR KREMER: Well I only called a point of order because I was hopeful there would be some discussion because I know the various members of the body have been concerned about what we are doing and I do not want to railroad this thing through and I think it deserves a little time and some discussion. That is the reason I thought perhaps there was a motion to cease debate but there was not and I want to discuss it. Now if there is no discussion, fine. We will vote on it but again I am giving the members of the body the opportunity to discuss the committee amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lowell Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the body, I cannot in good conscience or respect for my profession accept this provision of the committee amendment to eliminate the present provision that the Director of Water Resources shall be a professional engineer. In this current era when we are confronted with some major and far-reaching decisions affecting water, we need the best training and experience and those trained in the knowledge that we can get. I think we want a Director of Water Resources who can work among his professional peers in local, regional and national meetings where our most important natural resource, water, is on the line because most of the responsibilities of the director are engineer responsibilities relating to public safety and our public welfare. The director must be very well qualified to make engineering decisions relating to safety of dams, appropriation rights, stream flows and interstate water resources compacts. I join in the feeling of the Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers that this amendment would not be in the public interest. When we need skilled legal talent we do not call on paralegal people for support. When we need medical services we do not rely on paramedicals. No less should we rely on a nonprofessional in this very extremely critical position. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are still speaking to amendments 1 and 2 on page 462 in connection with LB 109. Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am very pleased that Senator Kremer did not allow this bill to proceed without some discussion. I