

Senator Cullan pointed out some of the reasons a while ago very eloquently. I would simply remind the body that from my perspective the position of the Director of the Department of Water Resources is probably one of the most important administrative positions in state government and particularly when you look into the future and the concern that many people of this state have as far as water resources are concerned. When you look into the statutes and realize the tremendous responsibilities that we have given the Director of Water Resources and I would suggest that we will probably continue to add to those responsibilities, I agree to the point that the Director does need to be a good administrator and that possibly might not mean have an engineer's degree to be a good administrator. The two might not go hand in hand necessarily but I really believe that there are people out there that would be capable to meet both of those requirements and I think the issue should be, let's get the best person possible for not only administration but also for the technical abilities that this individual might have. I guess I would ask, Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Kremer a question if I may, please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer, do you yield?

SENATOR KREMER: I yield.

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, Senator Kremer, was there any discussion of this at a public hearing or anything of this nature within the Public Works Committee?

SENATOR KREMER: No, sir. We gave some thought to introducing it as a bill but the committee has reached its limit and the only alternative we had was to attach it to a bill that opened up the chapter related to this particular issue. And may I say this, Senator? This issue did not come to the surface until Mr. Neuberger resigned and all at once here was an appointment to be made. Well, is it possible to find someone that would meet both those qualifications, a good administrator and a good engineer, and this is why I slowed this thing up. I did not want it to slide through. I want everyone to have a chance to debate it, to look at it so no one can say well you slid this through on another bill. No one knew what was taking place. We did not have a hearing and if the introducer of the bill wants to make a motion to take this back to committee so we can have a hearing, I will support his motion.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Knowing you as I do I certainly know that you would not attempt to slide anything past this body and I also know that you feel this position is of utmost importance. I would urge caution to this body, however, before adopting this amendment. I am