

a little bit concerned that perhaps the people that deal with the Director of the Department of Water Resources, the most, the Natural Resources District people, the surface irrigation districts and so forth have not had perhaps an opportunity, at least I have not been in contact with any of them and perhaps it would be a good thing to get some information from those people. At this point in time I, as I indicated earlier, reluctantly oppose the committee amendments in this area.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I think we are tampering with something here in the statute that we shouldn't be. We've got a Governor elected by the people of the State of Nebraska who can make the decision as to who should serve in this important position. Now I have every confidence in this Governor being able to make that decision without spelling out in statute exactly how and who he shall appoint and that is what we are doing. We are not looking for an engineer in this position. We are looking for an administrator. Senator Vickers said just exactly that, that the most important criteria is that we have a man skilled in administrative practices. That is what we need, is an administrator. Now that administrator, if he is a good administrator and I have every confidence he will be a good administrator, can hire all the technical assistants he needs, whether he needs an engineer or whatever he needs, he can pull those resources out and where he can have the expertise to help him administer his department. It just does not make any more sense to say that this administrator must be an engineer than it is to say in order to be a legislator you have to be a lawyer. The principle is the same. You have to make a lot of decisions in this body that deal intricately with the law and you have staff and you have resources on which you draw upon to get the knowledge to make the appropriate decision. I see nothing different in this particular area. We could preclude the most able person from serving in this capacity by putting in this kind of restrictive wording. So, to say in law and statute that this person should be an engineer, this person should be this or that or must be this is absolutely the wrong direction. There is nothing wrong with this bill as it came to the floor of the Legislature. There is nothing wrong with the committee amendments. There is no reason to send this back for a public hearing. That is a stall. That is a delay tactic. The bill is simple. It is straightforward. It is ready to be passed or not passed. There is nothing wrong with the committee amendments. So I think to delay this thing any farther in an area that it is critical, we need to address