

and to coordinate activities between different agencies. I think that probably the wise thing to do is to have him in the Governor's office working directly under the Governor and accountable to the Governor and the Legislature in that capacity. So I think when we talk about policy, I think this is the right policy position to take for the Legislature. I think that I was especially convinced of this position when I talked to the Fiscal Office and asked them for some ideas on whether or not this is a common practice or not in state government. At this point, you know, it wasn't a look across the board, but at least an initial look found very, very few examples of cases where an individual was paid his salary through a number of different agencies. It is just not a very common practice in state government, and it shouldn't be. It is not a very wise policy position to take, I think. So because of the fact that this is a rather unique situation and that it really makes more sense for this position to be directly under the Governor, this amendment would take away half of the salary which is now paid for through the Department of Water Resources and a quarter of the salary paid for from the Department of Environmental Control, and place that money in the Governor's office and pay for the total hundred percent salary and benefits of this position through the Governor's office. Again, I think it is unusual for us to be in a situation where an individual is paid from a number of different agency sources. I think that it is clear that his lines of responsibility are directly with the Governor, so it only makes sense in my mind to place him in the Governor's office and to pay for him through the Governor's office. And that is what this amendment would accomplish.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment. It adds really no extra money in the Appropriations Committee. I was one who supported the clean accountability with regards to this expenditure, the fact that rather than split a salary over multiple agencies where the true impact of this Coordinator would be lost, that we would put it together, identify it as a \$45,000 expenditure that it is so that people would really see the fiscal impact of adding this Coordinator and then in turn could judge the value in terms of improvement of a situation of natural resources in the State of Nebraska for having that Coordinator. Now there are some who indicated that perhaps this person's title is Resource Coordinator and Press Secretary, and some cynics say, Press Secretary should be first and Resource Coordinator second. I wouldn't want to make that judgment until we have seen more of the work product.