

May 21, 1981

LB 273

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the Vickers amendment. All those in favor of that motion...Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I just want to point out one more time that I am not changing the concept of the risk management program in the bill whatsoever. There is nothing to prevent the risk manager from being an expert in his field or hiring all the experts that he desires in these fields. As Senator DeCamp pointed out, it is necessary I suppose to have experts in various fields when you are dealing with these claims against the state but the bottom line is still this, the individuals that make the final determination based on the information given to them by those experts, who do we want them to be? Who do we, the representatives of the public, want making that final determination? Somebody that has been appointed or somebody that has been elected? It is that simple. That is the difference. Senator DeCamp says this is a major change. I submit to you the major change is in the bill. I am trying to leave the decision, the final decision, in the hands of elected officials just like it is right now and which I think the public wants. The public does not...I don't hear any hue and cry from the public telling us to turn the functions of government over to people that are appointed. I think the hue and cry from the public, and I don't care whether this came from the task force or out of somebody's fertile little mind, it makes no difference to me, I think the hue and cry from the public is to leave the hands of decisions in government in the hands of elected officials, people that are responsive to the electorate and I will not back down from that position. So I urge this body's adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is the adoption of the Vickers amendment as explained. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: How many are absent?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Two excused.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, let's have a record vote. I think it should be in the record at least.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Record. A record vote has been requested.

CLERK: (Record vote read. See page 2168, Legislative Journal.) 25 ayes, 22 nays, Mr. President, 2 excused and not voting on the adoption of the amendment.