

the Director of Administrative Services. I happen to serve on the Business and Labor Committee and I have got nothing against John Harlon. I think he is a fine gentleman but John Harlon, in my estimation at least, is not an expert in that field. He in turn hires experts. He is an appointed official by the Governor. If you want to use that analogy, then if everyone of our directors are experts in their fields, and I think that is a bunch of baloney, now I have got nothing against Mickey Stewart, the ex-Director of the Department of Agriculture, but Mickey Stewart was not an expert in the field of agriculture. He was an expert in handling people. He was an expert and he understood agriculture somewhat but that does not necessarily mean he was an expert in that field. He in turn got experts to work for him. The question is still fundamentally the same. Do you want the State Claims Board to be made up of appointed officials who, as I just go through telling you, are not necessarily experts. I do not think that every member of... a director of all of our administrative code agencies that the Governor appoints are all "experts". I think they are good old political cronies, that is normally what happens, that are able to in turn hire people to be experts. And I think the argument is still fundamentally sound and I urge this body's rejection of the Wesely amendment. We just got through adopting a policy course that says we are going to stay responsible through the electors' box to the people, and to revert from that course is just as wrong now as it was thirty minutes ago. Senator Marvel continues to tell us how we waste time and spin our wheels and I am just as guilty as anybody attempting to amend a bill on Final Reading, but as I pointed out to you originally, I did not catch it before. Many people seem to think, and I have heard the comment that certain individuals have gotten to me. That is not true. I read this this morning. I called my aide. He came up here and quickly scribbled the amendment out over here under the balcony. Nobody had talked to me about this issue. I think anybody that knows me well enough they should know that I do not operate that way anyhow. But I do think that this is a policy decision that we as representatives of the public should be very careful about. So I urge the body's rejection of the Wesely amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Would Senator Vickers yield to a question?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Vickers, after your speech, why