

didn't you vote for my bill or my amendment now that required an expert?

SENATOR VICKERS: Because I still think that the people that are appointed by those individuals by the Governor, the Governor should be able to appoint people that in turn hire experts. I do not think the directors of the various agencies themselves have to be an expert. I think they have the ability to hire people that are experts. That is the way all the administrative agencies work at the present time.

SENATOR HIGGINS: It sounds contradictory. First you are talking about political cronyism and you are saying now it is all right then to hire a political crony, to use your words, to be the one then to determine who are the experts.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do you have a question to pose?

SENATOR HIGGINS: That is my question. Are you agreeing with me or disagreeing.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Will you answer the question, Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: The difference, however, seems to be to me that the individuals that are making the final determination should be elected officials, not necessarily the experts. Whether they are appointed or where they come from, I think they should be elected first of all.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you. You have answered my question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, very briefly, Mr. Speaker. This is a motion to reconsider the Vickers amendment. Senator Vickers just said he wants elected officials to be the ones to make the decision. In fact through the claims process we have, the risk management process we would set up by this bill, the elected officials will make that last decision and that will be this body, the Legislature. We are hiring the risk manager through those administrators that we are going to put on this Claims Board. They will have the experts working for them and report to the Legislature and we, as elected representatives of the State of Nebraska, will make those claims decisions. So in effect, this process is already there with the bill and that we don't need the additional intrusion of the State Treasurer, State Auditor or the Lieutenant Governor and we can go to a process that the bill has in this form, third reading. We have had