

that we are attempting to correct down there. We have had complete cooperation from the present administration and had cooperation from the administration before. I think the present, Mr. Charlie Benson would welcome exposing anything that is irregular. We have no, or I have no feeling one way or the other about the resolution. We intend to stay at it anyway and if you would like a report on it, that part of the resolution I do not object to. I think we have the authority already and o whatever you want to.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator VonMinden.

SENATOR VonMINDEN: Mr. President, members of the body, it appears to me this resolution is uncalled for. I am relatively a newcomer down here but I think I was sent down here to make laws and not interfere with something that we do partially have some control over but we really don't have. But it seems to me like there are corrections being made out there now and I think perhaps we should keep our nose out of the business out there and go about making laws here. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on LR 208? If not, Senator Fowler, you may close on your motion to advance the resolution, to adopt.

SENATOR FOWLER: I would like to share the closing with the cosponsor that is here, Senator Johnson. I guess Senator Nichol indicates certainly that they are in touch with things at the Department of Corrections. He did not really indicate as to whether or not they have done any specific review of this situation and I think that again the allegations that have been made are fairly serious in nature and they are a bit above the usual personnel questions and the resignations certainly are a bit above the level that we normally deal with. Now it seems to me that our function is not just to pass laws. Our function is to monitor state government and to see if there is a need for legislation and to see how expenditures are being made and to see how our institutions are being managed. And when several top officials are asked to resign because of allegations of improprieties and perhaps illegal activities it would seem to me that that is something this Legislature might be a little concerned about. Now again there is no judgment in this resolution that it was proper or improper for those people to resign. In no way is this resolution any sort of vote of confidence one way or another on the Director of Corrections but it is a statement that this Legislature as a whole feels that this matter is significant enough, that