

January 4, 1989

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, in deciding whether to nominate myself or ask another to do it, I decided that the appropriate ritual is one that we are all familiar with. Going door to door, you face your constituent and you make your case and you ask for their support. I would like to nominate myself for the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. My qualifications include that I have been in the Legislature for ten years, served on this committee for five, been a chairman for six years in the Government and Military Affairs Committee and Urban Affairs, and I have also served on the Executive Committee of the Conference of Insurance Legislators for eight years. There are three things I would like to have changed about the committee, and I thought I would share them with you while you are making your decisions. First, it seems to me that we all too often start off our work by simply throwing in the committee to deal with bills, when there is a learning curve for each committee to address. It would be my hope to have some briefings by the Banking Department, the Insurance Department, and interested parties to come before the committee before we begin hearing bills so that new committee members would hear the basic outline and structure of state regulation before they begin voting on each individual piece of legislation. Secondly, a lot of the bills that come to this committee are negotiated bills by the industries involved, insurance companies negotiating with each other, banks negotiating with each other. Oftentimes those bills are concluded by the time they come to the Legislature. I would try to send a signal to the affected industries that if these are to be the product of negotiations, the Legislature should not be left out, but that one of the members of the committee should serve in those negotiations so we are apprised as to what is going on. And, lastly, I would try to bring to the floor with the help of the committee counsel, Bill Marienau, full discussion of what are generally quite technical bills, but I would try to at least be able to reduce it down to who wins, who loses, and how the consumer or the ratepayer or the ordinary person in the street is affected. That is what I would like to have happen in the committee this coming two years, and for that reason, I would ask the support of the body. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Are there other nominations or supporting comments? If not, we have distributed ballots to you. The Clerk and Mr. Brown will be picking these up, and may I have the following people serve as the election commissioners,