

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'm not sure. They're in the statutes. We provided for a nominating commission and they may...they may be authorized.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I believe we have to authorize it in the Constitution.

SENATOR ASHFORD: We may have to or it's authorized under some general language, but the nominating commission, at least it's set out in statute how it works. I don't believe...now I could be corrected, I don't believe the Merit Commission is established in the Constitution but I could be wrong on that, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, I think there must be some authorization somewhere (interruption).

SENATOR ASHFORD: All right. We'll take a look at that but that's a good point too, as well. Thank you.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Uh-huh. You know, I...I certainly would entertain the legislative oversight and approval of judges and Senator Wesely and Senator Chambers had some great rationalization for that bill which will be in the Judiciary Committee and would include all judges. But I really think that brings to my mind that this amendment is not appropriate on this bill at this time and indeed would be covered by the proposed legislation or constitutional amendment which is in the Judiciary Committee...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...and which will give it the opportunity to have a public hearing and we could get more information then and certainly cover those points that I questioned because I don't think this had enough consideration. With that, I think I will be voting against...well, I know I will be voting against this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, Senator Ashford on deck.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to oppose the amendment. I think it's an interesting concept and, from what I