

February 23, 1990

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I think the question here to me, anyway, is one of what is the duty of the Legislature, what is our charge here. One of the duties that we must address, and we can't do it maybe this year, but next year is clarifying how these nominees are approved. All the nominees should be approved by a majority of the Legislature, and if not, the Governor should then have to appoint another nominee. That is clearly not the case in all of these nominations that we approve and act upon. In some cases, it merely takes an act of the Legislature. In some cases, it does take a majority, but we must, first, or I guess next year, second, we must clear that issue up. I think it is imperative that we do that to make it clear on what our actions shall mean. Second, I think our duty...it is the Governor's duty to appoint who she wants for these jobs, who she feels is best for these jobs. And it is our duty to then look at that appointment and say is this the best appointment? Are there better people available? Yes or no. I feel in this case it is my duty to vote no. I will make no comment on Ms. Bartels qualifications. I don't know her; haven't heard anything about her, but to me, it was very obvious and is still obvious that Mr. Carlson was taking the lead on many very important issues and he is still there and he is still available. So to me, my no vote today will not be against Ms. Bartels, it will be a vote that says to the Governor, I think you made a mistake. There is, obviously, a proven leader in this area who you failed to nominate. I am sending this nomination back to you in hopes that you will reconsider. So I disagree, I guess, with Senator Crosby. I think our obligation is to vote and make that vote mean we don't feel...we do or don't feel that you made the best choice possible, and I feel that there, obviously, is another choice, a much proven better choice, and that will be the reason for my no vote. I think it is the duty of this Legislature to continue to scrutinize the process that we have been talking about all morning this morning. It is very important in many areas and we have been known to just simply rubber stamp and we are on a path now to more responsibly address these situations, and I think that should continue, and I am sure it will continue in the next few weeks. With that, I will offer some time to Senator Coordsen.

PRESIDENT: Senator Coordsen, you have a little under two minutes, please.