

people to go around in some areas of the state. Now in my area of the state there is no problem. Nobody ever thinks of trying to serve on more than one board except maybe I should give a confession here. When I was appointed to the Legislature about seven years ago, I think there was a week that I served...continued to serve on the school board. So, hopefully, I'm granted immunity for whatever punishment there will be because it's on the floor of the Legislature that I'm making this confession. But in our area of the state this doesn't usually happen, but in areas of the state that Senator Dierks is talking about I think it's an important thing, an important change we need to make. So I would urge you to support it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, please, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, the Government Committee began work on this I think as soon as the problem surfaced last fall and we explored a lot of options. The committee amendments are the end result of comparisons of many, many changes in the system. And I support the committee amendments because, in my mind, what the committee amendments do is return to the voters of Nebraska free choice as to who they want to represent them and basically we're talking about local government. And if it ever...dual officeholding is an issue, then it would be an issue in a local campaign when the selection is made. So I think this is a good step forward in returning to the electorate of Nebraska choices that perhaps should never have been taken away from them. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, would you like to close on the committee amendments, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, just a brief closing, Mr. President. I think there is some fine print in the bill for Senator Withem's case and I think it reinstates public flogging for those kind of things and that will take place a little later on if we pass this. But I think that this was the best thing that the committee could come up with. I think it does, as Senator Coordsen said, it does return to the local entities that choice and that decision as to whether or not that person is going to serve on more than one board. It also helps out an awfully lot of officeholders especially in rural Nebraska right now who happen to be holding more than one office and makes it much more clear as to whether they can or cannot do that. And I do