

directed by law situations, so I think we would have the authority to do this. The concept was that these representatives would be representatives of the Board of Regents, of the community colleges, of the independent colleges and boards, that they would send their representatives to the table and I think, if they were appointed by the Governor, they would not necessarily be the representatives from the institutions. That is the reason why I think we did it, although I will be very honest with you that I do not recall anybody suggesting to us any way other than those boards picking their own representatives, and I don't recall a fairly lengthy debate, and on my own time, I will share with you some of my thinking on your amendment but I won't take your time to do that.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Withem. That will be all for this little moment. I have my light on I think, too.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, would you care to discuss it?

SENATOR ABBOD: Pass.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Withem, Warner, and Coordsen.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the body, I would like to thank Senator Coordsen for bringing this amendment because this is one area of this bill that I would like to have discussed a little bit further and I think that he has raised a legitimate issue here. I would like to, if I might, ask Senator Withem or Senator Warner a couple of questions briefly about the powers of this commission and about the independent colleges inclusion, whichever one would care to respond. Senator Warner. I think this is an important point here and I guess the question in my mind has been all along that I am not certain, I am not saying that there shouldn't be, I am just not certain why the independent colleges were included on this higher coordinating commission. I don't know, quite frankly, if they are already on the present higher coordinating commission, if they are represented, and I guess I'd like to know what the rationale is, just for the record, but before that even, could you just briefly describe the powers of this commission for the record also.