

political party balance in there, or if it's unusual, or I'd like, if you can, for you to respond to that.

SENATOR WITHEM: About the only way I can respond is tell you what my impression is because I can't tell you how many commissions there are and which ones have a political party and which ones don't. I notice a number of them that come through the Education Committee, particularly I've noted since, well, since I've chaired the committee and we've had a Republican Governor, there seems to be a lot of Republican appointees coming through there and there doesn't seem to be, on a lot of the commissions we deal with, this requirement for a balance. And I'm not saying that as a critical fashion. I'm sure a Democratic Governor would appoint Democrats also. So I don't...some boards have it, some don't, and I could not tell you which is the norm and which is the aberration.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Just...I guess that's all for now. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Chambers, would you care to close on your amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I had left this bill alone because there was a lot of jockeying and discussing in trying to get it into a final form, and now that I can see the form I don't think that it is as tightly crafted as a proposed amendment to the Constitution should be. If you're intent on keeping this language that I've tried to get you to strike, there's nothing I can do about that. But I don't think it's necessary to put that extra language in the Constitution to empower the Legislature to set up districts or any other basis on which appointments will be made. Remember, there is nothing in the existing language, if you strike what I'm talking about, that restricts the Legislature. It says, starting on page 5, in line 16, "Each board of trustees shall consist of five members appointed by the Governor with the approval of a majority of the Legislature." Then it talks about the student member. Then go down to line 24: no member of a board of trustees shall be a member of the Board of Regents for the Nebraska higher edu...Regents for Nebraska higher education, period, and you don't have to say anything about how these people...or put restrictions or limitations on the Legislature's power to set up criteria for determining the means of appointment. But when you put this language in, it does provide a restriction and before