

education politics would not enter in, but I believe, and I have said it before that LB 239 (sic) is tinged with politics and that is why it is before us. So if the very constitutional amendment that we are offering whose purported purpose is to restructure higher education to improve it, if that is tinged with politics, we know that the decisions and appointments made pursuant to this proposition, should it become a part of the Constitution, will very well or very likely be tinged with politics. So if the public were made aware of the fact that, say, a troglodyte governor was going to make appointments to this board, or these boards, of individuals who will carry education backward, they might be concerned about the wisdom of adopting this type of restructuring. I know that there are certain types of individuals who, if they could control education, would say there are certain types of things which are not going to be taught. There will be a price to pay by faculty members who dare to exercise their right to academic freedom. If there are persons from both political parties, there is a greater chance that some balance will be maintained, and when I say balance, I am not talking about equilibrium where you get the same amount on one side, the same amount on the other, so that there cannot be any movement, but rather balance in the sense of differing points of view so that iron will sharpen iron and through discussion where not everybody is a rubber stamp. That type of discussion can lead to the development of policies that are beneficial for those who are to attend and work at these institutions. So I don't see anything wrong with requiring the type of appointment that Senator Schimek is talking about. What I would ask Senator Withem to consider is this, if the political party makes no difference, why put it in the Constitution relative to the initial appointment? These people are going to continue to be appointed in perpetuity, not the same individuals, but these are appointed positions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If the initial appointment should be insulated from what might be perceived as political packing, that same principle ought to carry throughout. The beginning, the first impression, that is how and when the tone is set. We do have other areas where members of differing political parties are required by statute to be appointed, and, again, it is to give that balance, recognizing the realities. As politicians, ostensibly elected to this body on a nonpartisan basis, we know that partisanship creeps into almost every controversial issue