

you like to close on your amendment, please?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. First of all, let me just reiterate what this amendment does. As originally drafted, the amendment, Senator Warner's amendment called for the appointed members, the originally appointed members of both the Board of Regents and the Boards of Trustees to be divided so that no more than three of them could be of the same political party. What my amendment attempts to do or does do is to make sure that on down the line these gubernatorial appointments do not contain more than three members of the same political party. Now Senator Warner talked about the fact that some of these educational boards and commissions have never had that provision in them before, but I would like to reiterate what Senator Chambers was striving at, I believe, when he said, but have we ever had a Board of Regents that was elected before, and no we never have. I think that we do have a case here of a board in which a lot of power is going to reside. We have a case in which we have never had this appointment process before, for the Board of Regents, and I don't think it would hurt us to have this stipulation. They are going to be dealing with a lot of important decisions that involve taxpayers' money and it would be possible, as Senator Rod Johnson alluded to earlier, to actually stack these boards with people of one political persuasion, and there are some differences philosophically between the two political parties, and Senator Warner is right when he says that there are also differences within each party. That is correct. But, by and large, the party is a yardstick, at least, of measurement for what a person's philosophy is. I don't want to make these boards political. That is not really the point here. The point is that it would be easy to do. It is done in a lot of other boards and commissions, and doing it here would not prove to be onerous for the Governor who was making those appointments. Remember, some of the other boards and commissions, like the Game and Parks Commission, the Liquor Control Commission, the Nebraska Power Review Board, State Racing Commission, Commission on the Status of Women, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission, a lot of these boards and commissions have that political division proviso. So I would just urge the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Schimek amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Chambers.