

November 17, 1989

we had was J.L. Spray, Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. I ask that the Legislature approve these appointments.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? If not, the question is the adoption of the confirmation report. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. I need a little help. Thank you. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of the confirmation report as offered by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

PRESIDENT: The confirmation report is accepted.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have a report from the Education Committee regarding appointments to the Safety Center Advisory Council.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members, and I appreciate your attention on this one, because this one is a little out of the ordinary, and I want to make sure everybody understands why we're making the recommendation that we are making. On Wednesday of this week, we scheduled confirmation hearings, we notified all of those agencies that had appointments before our committee. That is our normal procedure. Relied upon those agencies to notify the appointees. When we convened, those designa...those appointees for the Safety Center Advisory Council did not appear, none of them appeared. It was apparently a communication breakdown with the Director of the Safety Center Advisory Council. As a matter of fact, our committee clerk has been attempting to reach him via telephone, and is receiving no return telephone calls. So we don't really know what the situation is. We, as a committee, think it is important that the Legislature retain its ability to question the appointees and act upon and give recommendations concerning their qualifications. I know in many ways it seems rather perfunctory what we're doing, but the process, I think, is a valuable one, and we, as a Legislature a couple of years, attempted to beef up our procedures for confirmations. And we thought it would be improper, for a commission that just totally ignored us, to recommend confirmation of those individuals. By the same token, we did not feel it proper to come forward and