

of Senator Dierks's concern with the present monitoring committee. It has clearly not worked. I guess there have been all sorts of accusations on why it has not worked, but I think everyone on the Natural Resources Committee felt that something needed to be done to help this committee get to working similar to what, for example, Senator Morrissey's area, Nemaha County, that worked pretty well. When we were debating this particular issue in the committee, we gave the Natural Resources Committee three options to address the present monitoring committee. We ended up deciding that we were going to stay with the present monitoring committee as it was structured today. Now realize Governor Nelson has two appointments that he can make right at the moment. I understand that he can either reappoint or pick some new people, I think, principally, Jim Selle and Dr. Marcum, who is the chairman. Both of those individuals, I believe, could be replaced, and there seems to some pointing to if he leaves, then I will leave, and I don't know what is going to happen in that situation. But the Governor can replace these folks. And if you read the present committee amendment, it gives the Governor the responsibility of appointing four members to the board, and they serve at his pleasure. So in this case, if this bill passes, Ben Nelson has the right to replace those people, and he can do it at any time. But we are hoping, obviously, we have some consistency here. I share some of the concerns Senator Dierks's has. I tell you I have got an amendment prepared that I am holding that would get rid of the present monitoring committee and would set up a new committee, because, obviously, there are some problems there and I don't know if leaving the present committee in place will solve those problems, but, obviously, there is at least one NRD member I think that has to be appointed, so there are going to be some changes on the board regardless of what happens to setting up either a new committee or leaving the present one in place, there will be changes. And just to me at this particular point, I am going to comply with the wishes of the Natural Resources Committee because we spent an extensive amount of time debating this whole issue of whether to keep the monitoring committee, the present monitoring committee in place, and I am going to go with what the committee has decided to do, which is to leave it in place. Dr. Marcum, who I have talked to a few times, has said to me, well, you know, yes, we have not met recently but we have had no money to do a lot of things we'd like to do. This bill, if we pass it, gives them the dollars, \$150,000. It gives them specific duties to perform as a monitoring committee. So I think it will give them back some direction regardless of who