

some...or probably like Senator Warner, know of some instances at least in the past where this has happened, where people have switched their party registration so that they could be appointed and, I guess, I think that maybe this is a good concept to put into the bill but, like Senator Conway, I think maybe two years might be better than five. And one of the reasons is that you and I both know that no matter how consistently registered a person is for a particular party, that there are occasions along the line when people do change their registration for one reason or another. There may be a contested primary and not a contested general election, for instance. There may be a gubernatorial campaign in which they change their registration. And I guess if you go back five years, I think there is an increased chance of that happening and that perhaps two years is enough of a test or a measure of the person's party affiliation. So I guess the two are better than the five. I would like to go ahead while I have the floor and mention that I have a question, Senator Warner, about the second half of this portion of the amendment and my question is, do we have this kind of a provision anywhere else in the statutes with regard to any other commission or board? It's kind of an unusual concept.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, Senator Schimek, to my knowledge at least, this is not in any other provision. Election or conducting elections, of course, is a much more unusual situation than what I would consider the normal operation of state government and if the concern is for balance, it seems to me it should be all the way up and down, not just with the commission that meets periodically.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Warner, can you, could you respond? Would there be any question of violations of civil rights here? For instance, we can't use age and we can't use religion and we can't use marital status, could we use political party as a measure by which someone is deemed worthy of employment?

SENATOR WARNER: The case that I know about, Senator Schimek, and there may be others, but the ones I know about it ran the other direction where the restriction of hiring of employees by a governmental agency was that they were cleared through the political party of whoever happened to be governor to be approved and that was just the general operation, had nothing