

August 12, 1992

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President. Very briefly, I wasn't going to speak on this. Senator Chizek mentioned that Mr. Renteria is a member of our law firm in Omaha and he is a member of the law firm, has been for about eight months. For that reason, I have filed a conflict of interest statement, I do not intend to vote on this matter or enter into the debate. But inasmuch as it was part of the record put in by Senator Chizek, I just wanted to make clear to the body my reasoning for that and my reason for not voting. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I have some feelings about this particular appointment from different points of view and I've read everything that Senator Chambers has given us today. I've also read the testimony from the Judiciary Committee that Senator Chizek provided us. And I think that Senator Chambers makes a good point about the minority member and also of the person being on the Parole Board, particularly the chairman, who has a background in corrections. Working in a court or with a judge or that kind of thing is not corrections as I understand corrections. The other point I'd like to make is I have great respect for Marj Marlette. If any of you have read Marj Marlette's comments that Senator Chambers gave us as she testified and also in the newspaper, later she commented that she wished she had not testified neutral, but testified against the appointment. Marj Marlette has a long history of covering the, reporting for the newspapers the Parole Board proceedings. I've known her for years and she's very active in a lot of organizations that work with prisoners and I respect her opinion highly, and that's where I'm coming from on this particular appointment. In view of the problems we've had this last year with the Parole Board and its mission and what it's supposed to be doing, and in connection with the Pardons Board and so on, I think we need to give a whole new look to the statute covering the Parole Board. And we have in this past session, we just have never come, we haven't addressed that, so I think this might be a first step. The other thing and I spoke to Senator Chambers about this,