

August 12, 1992

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...right now. Thank you, Madam President, but I just think that I wanted to voice my concerns and have everyone understand why I'm not going to support this appointment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Kristensen followed by Senators Chambers, Bernard-Stevens and Schellpeper. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. It's with some hesitation that I rise on this particular issue. Most of the confirmations we routinely run through the Legislature. If we know someone, we stand up and applaud them. If we don't, we assume that the appointments been correct and everything will go as planned unless there's a problem and every once in awhile we have a problem. And it seems like the Parole Board is one that is a lightning rod. And that lightning rod, because of public attention or spotlights, seems to draw those political lightning rods real quickly. And so we're put under a magnifying glass and we're examined more as an institution or as government with parole because they are letting out people who are eligible for parole, who were criminals, who were in the penitentiary or in the corrections systems back into society; and society feels somewhat threatened by that and rightfully so. And sure enough, every once in awhile we take a risk with every paroled person and once in awhile that risk doesn't pay off. But the Legislature has a duty and that duty is to at least to make sure that the statutes are complied with. If Mr. Renteria is in here this afternoon or he's in the balcony or he's in the back, I couldn't pick him out. I don't know the man personally. But what I do know is I've gone through his qualifications and his record and I don't think it fits the statute. And I know it's probably real difficult to find people to serve in these positions because you give up another job to come do this, it's not the most popular job, and it's probably a difficult job. But the statute is still the law and it still has to be complied with. And the problem is that I don't believe, and I went through the qualifications, I have the appointments or the applications of the other members of the Board of Parole. If you'd like to come and look at those to see what their backgrounds were and what they have done and what they did at the time of their confirmation hearings, I have those at the