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whether there is a lot more that can be said after Senator Bernard-Stevens said is some of the responsibilities of the committee, but suffice to say I've been on the committee for eight years, I've had a lot of experience. I feel I know the budget as well as anyone. I pledge to you that I will share my knowledge with you as I did in my original nominating letter. I'll be fair, honest, straightforward in what I believe as I hope that I have been the last eight years. It is a job of the Chairperson to seek consensus and then become an advocate, if you will, of the bill. Sometimes, as many of you know, as committee Chairman it's not all that easy to advocate a position of a committee, but that's our responsibility as I see it as Chairman of a committee. So I simply pledge to you that I will be there, I will work hard, and I will listen, and I will be there for any of you that at anytime would have questions all through the session. My pledge will be to communicate with all of you. And so with that, I recognize the heavy responsibility of this committee and I ask for your support.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. The names that are placed in nomination are Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Wehrbein. Are there any further nominations? The Chair requests a motion to close...that nominations close. Nominations are closed...the motion before the body is that nominations close. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. Nominations are now closed. Would the senators please vote and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk please collect the ballots. The Chair appoints Senator Brown, Senator McKenzie, and Senator Janssen as the tellers for the election. While the ballots are being collected the Chair wants to announce a birthday today. Today is Senator Kristensen's birthday. I won't say how old he is, but we can all wish Senator Kristensen a happy birthday. Happy birthday, Senator. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: A moment of personal privilege, if I may, Madam President. Certainly I appreciate the birthday greetings. For those of you who are hungry, particularly Senators Schimek and Cudaback who have been looking at me and, yes, there will be rolls or something coming tomorrow, but today didn't seem to be the most appropriate day to do that. So, yes, treats will be coming for those of you who are hungry. Thank you very much for the greetings.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. The Chair declares Senator Wehrbein the Chair of the Appropriations