

May 22, 1995

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...will not deliberately commit another crime. But to overbalance the board in this way so that it leans against giving paroles, I think, is inappropriate and for that reason I intend to vote against this recommendation by the Governor. I hope there are enough who will vote no or simply be not voting to defeat this nomination and the Governor can rethink his position and try to find somebody who has a broader, more objective approach based on his or her training, background and orientation.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bernard-Stevens would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. Kendra Davis from North Platte, Casey Russman from Cozad, Jason Stewart from Dixon and Angela Radliff from Kearney and Sandra Stockall from the University of Nebraska as a 4-H Specialist are all here. They are state ambassadors for 4-H and the 4-H Action Team. They are under the north balcony. Please stand and be recognized. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Schmitt, your light is next.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Madam President, members, I guess I rise in support of this appointment and in support of Colonel Pearson, and I also understand Senator Chambers' concerns with two of the ex-members of the State Patrol on the Parole Board. I don't know as we want to refer to it as a Patrol Board instead of the Parole Board but I do understand those concerns. But I think as many of the members on this floor realize, from my past experience with the State Patrol, I am not always in total agreement with administration of the Patrol, so I'm not speaking in that behalf. I have known Colonel Pearson for many years, served with him for 25 plus years, served under him in his Lieutenant Colonel's capacity for five years before I retired. And speaking as an individual and not as the past Colonel or anything to do with the Patrol, in my opinion, Jim is a fine individual. I think he would be very impartial. In my opinion, with dealings that I have had with him, he has always been fair and impartial and I think he would probably continue to be that way. I am not an expert on the interior workings of the Parole Board but I would presume that each case is handled individually and I believe that they vote on these issues with a secret ballot, so I'm not sure that Colonel Pearson or Mannie Gallardo would know how each one was voting prior to the vote or even when they did vote. But, with that, I guess I am standing in support of the individual and ask the body's support. Thank you.