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member of a law enforcement agency prior to his appointment to this board. So, with that, I would stand in support of his appointment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, we do have statutes that do itemize those kinds of people that would serve on our Parole Board, and we have specified in our statutes one with a background of corrections, one female and one ethnic minority. Now those are three out of the five members that serve on our Parole Board. So we have made specific requirements for our Parole Board. Now to speak to Colonel Pearson, I...I think probably many have said very accurately that he definitely is a very thoughtful, deliberate man who has served the State Patrol in a very administrative capacity which involves a lot of the fairness and impartiality that I think we need on our Parole Board. As a matter of fact, as a retired member of the State Patrol, I think it is almost inconsequential and Senator Vrtiska had it right, it depends on the individual that serves there. It is not a secret vote, as a matter of fact they have to provide to the inmate, under our statutes, why that inmate did not receive parole. Many of you might know that I have a similar proposal so that the Parole Board would have to notify the public why, indeed, they did parole someone. So there are a lot of things in statute that determine the decisions and the choice and the makeup of the Parole Board, and I certainly support Colonel James Pearson as being a quality, fair and impartial person who has served in the capacity of making those administrative decisions that I think are needed on the Parole Board.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I would like to reciprocate with Senator Vrtiska and ask him a question or two.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Vrtiska, how long have you known Mr. Pearson?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Vrtiska.