

May 22, 1995

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, I do not have any objections to Colonel Pearson, in fact, I probably do support his nomination. But I do have some... a quick comment, I have a summary sheet that says the qualifications for the Board of Parole have to be by law. It was created by constitutional amendment in 1969. By law, board members must have a good character and a just temperament. At least one board member must be a minority and one must have a professional background in corrections. But I do notice all the current members are from either Lincoln or Omaha, Lancaster or Douglas County, and I do think that since the qualifications state, by law, board members must have good character and a just temperament, I do feel that there are people out there in perhaps other districts, other parts of the state, my own included, that would qualify for a member of the Board of Parole. However, I'm not speaking against Colonel Pearson; in fact, I said I will support his nomination but I do notice that all of them are either from Lancaster County or Douglas County, and that's my comment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I'm not on the Judiciary Committee but I took the liberty of obtaining the documentary background that they considered when James Pearson was considered for this appointment and I have reviewed his resume. And I think there's a dimension to his character that needs to be called to the attention of this body. I quote from the documents that were before the Judiciary Committee. "James Pearson is a member of the Deacon Board, First Evangelical Free Church. He's a member of the Lincoln Track Team. He's Vice-president of the Lincoln Christian School Board. is Vice-President of the Nebraska Special Olympics Board of Directors. He's a Past Chairman of the Men's Fellowship in the First Baptist Church in Beatrice, Past Chairman of the Evangelical Free Church in Seward, and is Past Chairman Deacon Board First Evangelical Free Church in Lincoln. I've done a little investigation. I've talked to people who know James Pearson. He's lived in Seward. He's lived in Beatrice. He is known to be a sensitive individual, conscientious and personally very devout and dedicated and I believe merits appointment to