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I'm presumptuous indicating that there are two candidates, if no candidate receives 25 votes, we will...we will then not continue with the election today. We will wait until a subsequent day when it appears as though our full membership will be here, either tomorrow or Monday. At least that is my intention. Obviously, the members can challenge that ruling, if they care to. But that would be the manner in which I would propose that we proceed. With that, the floor is now open for nominations for the position of Chair of the Executive Board. Senator Vrtiska

SENATOR VRTISKA: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise briefly this morning to place my name in nomination for the remainder of the term of Chairperson of the Executive Board. I think it's safe to say that when I was elected as Vice Chair of this committee, there was a real certainty that Senator Hall, who was Chair, would be leaving sometime during the term, and as a result of that, I would obviously end up as Chair of this body. I, at the time, didn't necessarily aspire to be Chair, but I knew that was going to happen, and it has happened, and we're here today for that purpose. Certainly there are several issues that are facing the Legislative Council right now which require attention. I offer myself as a candidate for this position because I really believe that continuity will be needed in order to deal with the issues efficiently and effectively. I've become familiar because of the time I've spent here in Lincoln, in the last four months, and working as the Acting Chair of the Executive Board, Executive Committee. The issues that I've been working with, along with the other board members, we've tried to deal with them reasonably and responsibly and in a timely manner. And I really believe that I can use my experience as the Vice Chairman and Acting Chairperson to help ensure the smooth management of the Legislature's internal functions. Over the past four months I've worked hard to conduct my office in a fair, open and nonpartisan manner. I think that's expected of the Chairperson. Over the past several weeks I've received a great deal of input from many of the members of this body and certainly members of the Executive Committee, and for that I'm very grateful. I see the job of the Chairperson as a person who listens and responds to the needs of the senators and of the Legislature. And I pledge that I would...and I pledged when I came in that I would keep my door open, and that's a pledge that I've kept for the purpose of discussing matters under the jurisdiction of the Executive