

gives as means for determining what the balance shall consist of. It's such a simple amendment that there's not much else that I need to say as far as explaining what it says, but I'd like to give a rationale for it. Any agency, any political subdivision whose job it is to administer to the needs of the whole community should, to paraphrase old John Adams, be a portraiture in miniature of the constituency to be served. So if, in fact, while we're dealing with an evisceration of the NEOC, I'd like to hold at least a tiny bit of gut, if possible, and I would like us to say that if we're serious about believing that political party affiliation, balancing that is important to this commission, a balance based on gender, race, age, and geographic areas of Nebraska are all important in order that we create an umbrella that allows everybody to be protected from the rain, we should not leave it to the whim of a Governor to defeat that. The way I believe in legislating in an area like this is to attribute the worst possible motivation to the one doing the appointing. Don't trust anything to the hope that he or she is a good man or a good woman. We have before us the issue, we have the power and, in my mind, the obligation to create a system that is going to ensure what it is we think ought to be the makeup of this commission. The language that I'm offering would say, instead of this just being a piece of good advice or the expression of a hope and a wish, it will become a mandate by the Legislature to make sure that the makeup of this commission will be such that all of the major areas of concern that should be touched by this commission will be represented through the appointees. That's what the language does. I've given you my rationale for the amendment, and if you have any questions, I will answer them. If you have opposition, I will argue with you.

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

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'd rise to oppose the amendment, a couple reasons. One, this...the language has, as it is, is intended to be as it says, that the various factors that are outlined ought to be considered and attempted to...to comply with. Obviously, to mandate that becomes an argument in every case, or at least, conceivably, provides the opportunity for arguments that would not, I believe, be constructive. In any event, the safeguard of compliance rests with the fact that the confirmation...or the appointee must be confirmed by the...by the Legislature and