

statutory rather than constitutional agency. This amendment was subsequently approved by the people of the state. The reasoning there was that the Legislature should be allowed to make the needed changes in the makeup or operation of state agencies which have the responsibility of major governmental program or which had a great impact on the people of the state. And I would like to reiterate that, the reasoning there was that the Legislature should be allowed to make the needed changes in the makeup or operation of state agencies which have the responsibility of major governmental program or which had a great impact on the people of the state. No improvements can be made in such agencies, ones which were established years ago when conditions were a great deal different, as long as they are based on constitutional provision. If this course is pursued and the recommended amendment is adopted, then subsequent Legislatures could give careful consideration to the problems of utility regulation, and....

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...construct an agency which would serve adequately all the important interests involved. I believe that 35 years is probably enough time for subsequent Legislatures to have been able to give careful consideration to the problems of utility regulation, and to have constructed an agency which would serve adequately all the important interests involved. Unfortunately, as a result of this, instead of removing the language from the constitution, what happened was that they changed it from three members to three to seven members and took no other action to change the constitution in a way that would really allow the Legislature the flexibility to restructure that agency, that even in 1960 was probably a bit outdated. And I would be glad to have some questions because I know that there are some forthcoming.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senators Beutler, Schimek, Kristensen, and Pedersen.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'd like to, obviously, at this point ask a couple of questions of Senator Brown, if I might.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brown, will you respond.