

January 30, 1996 LR 41

SENATOR BROWN: Well, I strongly believe that there are a number of things that are already in front of us in terms of changing the administrative part of this agency. We would then...I mean I believe that it would be imperative that this body would need to deal within the next two years with the structure of the agency. And I don't...I don't think that we could just sort of defer the decision making to the fact that there are only three commissioners left there. I think we would assertively do something statutorily.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, I guess my next concern...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I am not necessarily going to speak directly to Senator Chambers' amendment. I have not spoken on the issue. Ernie, if you want to object, object. I don't think it makes any difference to you at this point. But the broader issue about whether we should have a Public Service Commission that is a constitutionally protected body I think is important enough to address, whether we have it in front of us with Senator Chambers' amendment or not. I do not intend to vote for the advancement of LR 41CA. It is my belief that the Public Service Commission does need to remain a constitutional body so that we are assured that we can place and repose in that body the responsibilities that are appropriate for the regulation of various essential services in the state of Nebraska. I recall last week when we began discussing this issue that Senator Kristensen had made the remark that originally the Public Service Commission had been placed in the constitution, at least in part, because people had considered themselves to have been railroaded, or at least I think that was the derivation of his remarks. If it wasn't, I'm sure he will respond. Well, I think times are every bit as troubling now as they were then, and if we aren't going to be railroaded, we will be "X, X, Xed". It doesn't make any difference. The people of the state of Nebraska are entitled to know that the Legislature feels a responsibility for those particular kinds of businesses that traditionally have