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fault of the committee, it was a matter of circumstances and our usual time crunch here. One of the people who appeared in opposition made some statements about being hard-pressed to believe that a person who admits to having too many things to do, has no particular reason to sit on the board and will bring a pro agriculture perspective to water resource issues, could actually serve in an advocacy role that would lead to the best management of our natural resources. I rise basically to express some of the concerns of those sportsmen and biologists from...or former biologist from Game and Parks on this nomination. I was the dissenting vote and felt that I was dissenting based upon their concerns that this would not be a fully unanimously supported appointment. I make those comments to give you that information, also thinking that probably in another position Mr. Lapaseotes would certainly be an appropriate appointment. I felt a little uncomfortable in the hearing also because I think that this controversy over Connie's appointment was known to the Governor. And it was uncomfortable for me because it appeared that even the confirmation hearing was somewhat being taken over by forces outside of the committee that really was out of context for the way our normal hearings are conducted. Which brings me to the point that I think we should, through the Rules Committee or through the Exec Board, focus on. And here I would ask that those members of the Rules Committee and those members of the Exec Board listen to the comments, because I think sometimes our hearings are almost rubber stamp on these appointments, and that we really don't spend the time asking the questions, we really don't spend the time doing more than acknowledging that the person is there, if they even show up for the hearings. And we then pass them out of the committee onto the floor, and here on the floor we have very limited discussion and we do very little besides vote in the affirmative to make these appointments. I think our process is one where the Legislature is given some oversight; we should maintain that oversight and that appointment. But I think we, as a body, have some responsibility to do more than what we have done in the past in quickly...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...pushing these people through into those positions. I think some standardization of process from the