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Linder to be director of the Department of Environmental Quality. I can report to you that it was a positive hearing and the vote to confirm Michael Linder was unanimous. He has been legal counsel for the Department of Environmental Quality from 1986 to 1998. He has dealt in areas as...such as low-level radioactive waste, underground storage tanks, solid waste, Clean Air Act, and livestock waste, to name a few of his areas of expertise. He was not one of the few who had applied earlier, but came on at the request of the Governor, was asked to apply and was selected by Governor Mike Johanns to be our next director for the Department of Environmental Quality. That concludes my report. If anyone has any questions, I would try to answer them. Thank you for that presentation.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Members, could you please keep your conversations on the floor down a little so we may hear the speaker. Senator Chambers, discussion on the appointment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, the last day that we had some appointments the balconies were full of visitors, and when you have visitors you're supposed to be on your best behavior. So, although Senator Lynch may feel that I fudged the line to some extent, I was on my best behavior when we came to the nominations. I did not state why I am voting against these things; I merely pointed out that I was voting against them for the same reasons I had stated in the past. But now that it's all in-house, only family are here, I can continue to pound on the theme that I want to emphasize every time I get a chance to this session. Women and nonwhite people are treated as though they don't exist. Every now and then a token crumb is tossed toward one group or the other. But when you look at the total picture, things have not gotten better, they have gotten worse. I cannot speak for women in the way that I will presume to speak for black people because, obviously, I have never been a woman, although I think I'm only one "X" away from being one, if I have that correct, as is every man. But I can observe and I can see similarities between the way women are treated in this society and the way black people are treated. Our mistreatment as black people is far graver, far worse, more deep-seated, engrained and chronic, but there still is a commonality so I can speak with some degree