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Nebraska.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the body, when I came here this morning I, frankly, wasn't real aware of the fact that this issue was going to come up. Maybe many of you are in that same boat. And then I started to hear the arguments and the discussion about this issue. I've not heard from anybody from my district about this particular bill so I think this is kind of a work in progress. As a lawyer, I think I want to make a point similar to what Senator Kristensen said. Being a lawyer and representing the state of Nebraska is just a little bit different than any of the other functions that we have. Senator Smith said what we need to do is focus on the issues, and I would like to say, what are the issues for an Attorney General? There's only one issue for the Attorney General and that is to give appropriate, proper legal advice to the state of Nebraska. We see this in the Appropriations Committee. We see the results of that advice that we receive and we want to make certain that the advice that we get is impartial; that it's really for the best interests of the state of Nebraska, it has no political agenda one way or the other. So let's go back to it. What are the duties of an Attorney General? Or, even let's step one further step back, what are the duties of an attorney? The duties of an attorney are to represent, as well as they can do, the interests of their client, and the client in this state would be the state of Nebraska. So we are asking to select somebody as the Attorney General who will do the best job for the state of Nebraska, irrespective of the political ramifications of that advice. Political ramifications should not even be a consideration. And let's...let's look at it this way. Let's say you have a Democratic administration and a Republican Attorney General. If there are political issues that divide that, and sometimes there can be, what kind of...how are you going to meld that advice that the...that the Governor is receiving from somebody who doesn't agree philosophically with what the Governor wants to do? In fact, I think we had that a few years ago where those issues were rising. I think that the attorney function is a little different than most any of the other offices, and I'm glad that Senator Chambers limited it to