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the NRD, to their local boards. It's just then decided upon by the NRDs who they should have to represent them on the Natural Resources Commission. Back when Senator Kerrey was our Governor, the Natural Resources Commission had power over the Director of the Natural Resources Commission at that time, and they...the Natural Resources Commission agency director served at the pleasure of the Natural Resources Commission. But during the Kerrey administration that was changed so that the director of that agency, since then, has been appointed by the Governor. And like I said, Senator Beutler may have a good idea here, and it may be something we should look at. But I don't think the two agencies involved in this merger, and the Governor, nor members of the Natural Resources Committee, certainly not myself, were prepared to take this step at this time. So it makes for good discussion, and I would agree with him, the Natural Resources Commission is kind of a different...is kind of a different animal. I found in my term on there that the 13 members that represented the different watersheds were people who had served on the NRDs for a long time; they understood the resources of the state of Nebraska. They were very involved, dedicated members of the commission. And I still think there's quality people on that who understand the resources of the state. When you have those 13 geographical areas of the state, one for each watershed, you have a good balance, and then you have the three that are appointed by the Governor, and they represent ground water, surface water, and municipalities. So make no mistake about it, this may be a good idea, I just don't think we're prepared to take this step at this time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schrock. (Visitors introduced.) Further debate on the adoption of AM2300 to LB 900? Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator (sic) Maurstad, members of the Legislature, this is just thoughts and ideas I wanted to put forward today, and this particular amendment I did not intend to bring to a vote. The idea I want to pursue a little bit with Senator Schrock and others and see if it makes any sense. But I hope I was not overly broad. I may have been overly broad in suggesting the extent of the powers of the commission. But nonetheless, the commission has real powers with regard to a variety of state aid funds. So with that, I want to withdraw