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basin, for purposes of this caucus system, there may be people from one NRD who are participating in two different caucuses. And secondly, as I understand the description of how it works, all of the directors participate, notwithstanding that some directors, some NRD districts may have a large number of directors and others may have a smaller number of directors. So the system seems very inexact in a number of ways. And although the amendment doesn't correct it entirely, it does at least say simply this, that the Governor in the end would appoint out of the river basins rather than relying upon a caucus system. I don't know of any other group that has the power that this group has over funding decisions that is either not elected or appointed or under the appointment system and under the Governor's ultimate authority. So with that, I wanted to open that part up for discussion and see what people thought.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Beutler. For discussion on the Beutler amendment to LB 900, Senator Schrock.

**SENATOR SCHROCK:** Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler, I certainly won't say your amendment is not without some merit. But I can tell you from experience that the NRDs and the people who are serving the different watersheds at this present time value their membership on the Natural Resources Commission, and I think they would be very uncomfortable with having that position appointed by the Governor rather than selected by the NRDs that are involved. Now maybe it's just a...maybe we're just creatures of habit and we don't want to change. But I suspect that, if this amendment were to be placed on the bill, it would cause a lot of gnashing of teeth with the Natural Resources Commission. Those individuals who serve those different watersheds are very protective of their basin. I think every NRD board knows who represents them on the Natural Resources Commission. So, from that standpoint, I think our Natural Resources Commission, although I would agree with you, is kind of a hodgepodge of different methods that each basin is using, I think it's a very grassroots commission. Each one of those members of that commission has probably served a term on an NRD board before they were selected to serve on the Natural Resources Commission. They are there with a purpose and an intent, and I certainly would never want to criticize an appointment that a Governor