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ability, but somehow you have to make the distinction, and that's where this comes into play, as I understand it. And I don't think you would disagree with that. It doesn't mean that that person doesn't have the intelligence or ability; it just means that he hasn't asserted himself to become a commissioned officer, the same way with getting a degree to be able to teach a class in a high school or a college or even an elementary school.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But here's what I'm getting at, and it's why I mentioned that Barnum and Bailey, made that reference. Conceivably, all of the seasoned commissioned officers could be taken. They could be gone and you might have commissioned officers left, but none one of them had been a commissioned officer for four years. You have a commissioned officer but not for four years. These positions then could not be filled.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No matter how much knowledge the person had, even if that was what this person did in civilian life.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I understand what you're saying, but I'm only trying to make the point that this was...this was the purpose in this...in this piece of legislation that's entered into this bill, simply because it was there before simply because it's the attitude, as I indicated, with any other profession where you reach a certain rank. Then you're eligible for certain other assignments. And so, personally, I don't see anything wrong with it and I will support it the way it is, even though you may object. We can discuss that. And I appreciate the time we've spent on this bill. I think that it's good for all of us to learn more about the National Guard and the activities and the duty that they perform for the people of this country. Whether you agree with the war or not is not the primary concern we have here. The fact we're in one is what's important. And we have people who are serving who are dedicated to provide the safety and...

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING