TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2005 LB 351

representative on the council and not do similarly for 16 other people. I'm just not sure how you can do that in being fair.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. I guess that answers my question. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Schrock, on your amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I would remind the body that AM0885 is a cleanup amendment, and the crux of the matter gets to the committee amendment. But I want to talk a little bit about the Environmental Quality Council. The Environmental Council is not a policy setting body. We pass the laws. We set They do implement rules and regulations, and they the rules. take input from the public. They are appointed by the Governor. And depending on who the Governor appoints, could mean it could be slanted towards the environmental community, or it could be slanted towards the industry that's being regulated. Preister has always been concerned that it's been slanted towards the people who have been regulated. But I think those people are appropriately represented. The biologist, I think, is a good addition. And certainly they would have the proper education and be concerned about environmental issues. A member of minority, I think the thinking there is that if you take a look in Omaha at ASARCO with the lead contamination, that has probably unproportionately affected the minority community in this state. And I think that's where Senator Preister is coming from there. And that's been a terrible injustice inflicted on the citizens of Omaha, especially in the eastern part of the city. And so he has concerns there. And I think the committee listened to those concerns and responded. These people don't make laws. They implement regulations based on the laws we We did pass LB 916 last year, Senator Stuthman. It was pass. in response to EPA demands that we have our people who are in livestock production be in line with federal regulations. So they had to have a federal permit. And we did that with the least amount of disruption as possible. And we've had stringent regulations in this state on feedlots. And LB 916, I would argue, didn't change those regulations. Now, there's been some fines and so on and so forth. And when you dig down into it,