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January 9, 2006 LB 542

SENATOR BURLING: Sixteen members, yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: And that eight of them would come from...be appointed by the Executive Committee and be members of the Legislature,...

SENATOR BURLING: Yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...with six of those eight being not termed out, so they would be in, possibly, their...they would be in their first term. Would that be correct?

SENATOR BURLING: That's what we just voted in, yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: The thing that really concerns me is, in the original...in the original portion of the amendments to LB 542, it states in there: to ensure the retention of institutional knowledge about Nebraska's tax policy. So we're going to be having...we're going to be having six of the eight legislatures (sic) in their first term. That, to me, doesn't give very much institutional knowledge about our tax policy. Because of term limits, you know, institutional knowledge is going to be something of the past, and hopefully that can be changed in the future. But, Senator Burling, do you think there's going to be enough institutional knowledge in six of those eight, at least six of those eight, being in their first term, to try to set tax policy for the state of Nebraska?

SENATOR BURLING: Senator Stuthman, that was something we weighed, considered seriously. If we can have two, at least two, that have considerable amount of institutional knowledge, whether or not they'll be back after '07, I think that would provide enough information from the past for the commission to use. And we wanted to assure that there would be plenty of senators on the commission that would be here to help implement commission recommendations, so that's why we broke it down, two and six.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Burling. But it is of my opinion that I don't know whether we should have six of the eight be in their first term. Maybe it should be structured a