

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

April 12, 2006

important that people come to these confirmation hearings if they were interested in serving in this particular office, or on this particular board or commission. And I thought that was exemplary. And she reiterated it yesterday. Judy Schweikart actually works for Kutak Rock. She's an attorney. She's had a long history of community involvement, and she's been involved in the political process. She is a Democrat. And she explained to us both times that she was willing to make the commitment to take herself out of politics in order to serve, and she reiterated yesterday that she thought it was very important that we had people with political experience on the commission, of both parties, because they understand some of the nuances of campaigns and political committees. She is, I think, a very astute and good member of the board. Having said that, I would also like to say that in conversations with Senator Stuhr a few weeks ago, when she mentioned the Education Committee appointee and the kinds of, perhaps, problems that she saw with the process regarding that appointee, the more we talked about it, the more we decided that maybe there ought to be an interim study done on the whole confirmation process. And so, because it was after the deadline, I went around and got the Government Committee to agree to introduce such a resolution, and it has been referenced to our committee. And I mention it because I do think we need to think about the confirmation process. And it shouldn't be perfunctory. I don't know how the Health Committee does all those confirmations. Is it fair to ask the Health Committee to do all those confirmations when they can't possibly take the time that maybe is needed to do? So what I'm asking you this morning is to be thinking about this. I don't know how the Government Committee is going to conduct this study, but I have an idea that maybe we'll at the very least want to survey all the committee chairs and ask them for feedback on how the process could be improved. Should every single appointee come under the confirmation process? Should every single appointee have to drive into Lincoln for that confirmation process? Should there be the opportunity to do telephone call-ins on occasions when the person might live in Sidney or Chadron or somewhere where it is a huge, long drive? Should we insist on some kind of appearance, if it...particularly, it's the first confirmation rather than a reappointment confirmation? I want you all to be thinking about this, and give me and the committee