

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, as I indicated a little bit ago, I believe if we are going to put any types of requirements on the office of the State Auditor, that it ought to be requirements reflective of the types of duties that the State Auditor does. But I at the same time had some concern with the points made by Senator Chambers yesterday that the amendment offered yesterday was very narrow in saying that you had to be a certified public accountant. I had the same concern with Senator Beutler's previous amendment that he just withdrew that said you had to have a baccalaureate degree and that baccalaureate degree could be in anything. It could be in music, philosophy or anything else. So what I am offering to you now, if you are interested in accepting it, is an amendment that says...and you should have a copy of it on your desk, that the office of certified public accountant, or the office of public accountant should possess a baccalaureate degree with a major in accounting or be a certified public accountant, one of the two. It seems to me that that is the logical direction to go if, in fact, we want that office or the person running for that office to have some logical qualifications to handle that duty. Now I don't have that much problem with saying that if you are going to be in that office, you had ought to know something about the office because I think it is an office that is not an office where people deal in philosophy. It is not an office that is similar to each of ours where we make, hopefully, philosophical decisions about policy. It is not a policy-making office, but it is an office that deals in accounting and an office that deals with the various functions having to do with accounting and it occurs to me that having a degree in accounting probably would be a benefit in that office, but just simply having a degree would not. And I think it is too narrow to say that it has to be a CPA. I don't think it necessarily would have to be a CPA if you have got knowledge of accounting. It occurs to me that should be all that would be necessary. So I offer this amendment as a compromise amendment to the two suggestions that have been brought to us in the last day. As to what this body decides to do with it, I assume it is going to be up to this body, of course. But it seems to me that logically this is a middle ground and I would ask for the adoption of this amendment, Mr. President.