

May 1, 1985

LB 687

SPEAKER NICHOL: I have five speakers on. Senator DeCamp is next. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, the certified public accountants and the accountants have been squabbling over these issues for approximately I think it is about three years now. In fact, the battles have been so intense between them that when the legislation was before the committee on reinstating the existence of the board, the thing was held up for a year and only minimal things were done and some of these issues were left up in the air. It is my understanding from conversation I have just had with the representatives of the accountants and the representatives of the certified public accountants that they are both supporting...they are both supporting the Vickers amendment. So adoption of the amendment would resolve at least this major portion of the controversy between those groups and hopefully take it out of the Legislature at least for the foreseeable future. So on that basis I guess I would support the amendment. As to the argument that Senator Chambers raises about whether elected officials should have standards imposed by law such as we are doing here, I think that is a legitimate question and maybe the most legitimate answer to that is exactly what Senator Beutler raised that we are talking about a technician field as opposed to...as opposed to policy-makers. And maybe the more fundamental question, the more serious question that should be raised by that discussion is whether, in fact, the auditor should be, horror of horrors, an appointed official because it certainly has all the earmarks of those things that traditionally or typically would be appropriate for appointment. You look for somebody with certain qualifications, certain experience, certain background. However, since we do not choose to make that person appointed, and I guess I think wrongly so now that I look at it, then I guess the next best thing is probably impose some minimal standards and this legislation does at least do that at the same time it revolves the controversy between the two groups.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, then Senator Beutler, then Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler doesn't listen very well. I