

May 22, 1995

was opposed to it then and that I'll oppose it on the floor. There already is a former State Trooper on the Parole Board. This trooper is retiring to the Parole Board. In addition to my not wanting to see the Parole Board become a retirement village for State Troopers, I think it is inappropriate to overbalance the Parole Board with law enforcement people. These two men, the one who currently is on the board and a former State Trooper, the one they intend to put on the board, were in law enforcement and had the job and duty to try to put people in prison. I cannot see them having the objectivity, the breadth of view necessary to adequately and properly carry out the duties of the Parole Board. To have a five-person operation place two members of law enforcement is to give them 40 percent representation on the board. If there were going to be an attempt to bring the board closer to being a reflection of those groups making up the population in the prisons and the other facilities, correctional facilities, we should have at least two African-Americans on the board. We certainly should have at least one female. The female currently on the board is probably not going to be reappointed. When we reach the point of another person being placed on the board, the Governor probably will try to find some former law enforcement person. Every time that is done, I'm going to speak against the nomination. I am going to vote against the nomination and I'm going to do my best to persuade some of you to look at this as objectively as you can. Consider what the board is for. When it is highly politicized in the way that it is by the Governor, by placing people on the board who, I guess, he feels are going to share his, what he calls, tough on crime attitude, there is a predisposition of such an individual to try to prove to the public and the Governor how tough he is. I think there will be inadequate consideration given to the fact that people who have been in prison long enough to be recommended for consideration by the Board of Parole should be paroled if the facts warrant that. If they have committed murder, if they have committed rape, if they have committed robbery, burglary, assault or any other crime that brings a person into the penitentiary, when sufficient time has been served to qualify that person for parole, the person's institutional record justifies consideration for parole, and it can be demonstrated that the person is not an undue danger to the public. And the reason I say undue, nobody can predict with absolute certitude that a person will not stumble again,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.