

Senator Carpenter for at least bringing it to the floor again for us because he's been one of the principal proponents of LB 452 and to good thinking, reasoning legislators this morning, this is your way out. Support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. Since Senator Mahoney brought my name into this. I was listening, Senator Mahoney. I do not agree with you, however, I, as you undoubtedly realize. I would oppose this amendment because I think it guts the very idea of this change and that is to truly put the authority into the power of the Executive. Now what do I mean by that? I mean that the other members of this particular commission or whatever you want to call it, are executive officers, constitutional officers. Senator Marvel led into that into this discussion this morning on this proposed amendment. This is one of the things that was wrong with the DAS to begin with and some of us way back then presented to the committee at that time that very argument, that the other constitutional executive officers should be in--that this should be team work with the Governor in administering these important matters of service which affect all employees, all executive officers. This is not a fight between merely legislative and executive, this is a determination as to whether our--all of our constitutional officers whom I remind you are elected by the people of the State of Nebraska. These people also are responsible to the electors and these people, every one of them is elected and so you do not have the type of situation you'd have if you adopt this amendment where you'd have more appointive officers diluting the entire process of government of the people and I think that we're really talking about government of the people, representative government, executive having the authority to work together with executive. For once we might bring together the Governor of the State of Nebraska with the other constitutional officers and with the Legislature which would be something unique and something very refreshing to the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Stahmer, then Senator Snyder.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President and Members of the body. I'd like to again thank Senator Carpenter for bringing this motion so that this matter could be discussed. I'd like to remind the members of the body that the legis--the--your appropriations committee signed this bill unanimously. That represented both parties, both sexes and it represented two viewpoints that were split in the budget committee last year; but on this matter we are united and have been united. Many of the people in this body have not had the privilege or the opportunity to serve on the appropriations committee and I think perhaps they're a little at loss as to some--some of the meaning in this amendment but basically, when Senator Marvel said we're talking about users, this is the key. This is not talking of who is going to govern. This is a vehicle to use, such as the computer is a vehicle to use. It does not give power to dominate or run the State. It is similar to the accounting powers of the State and when there are 5 people using it, I think you're that much better off with checks and balances. Most of the time in the State we do have two parties represented in those five constitutional offices irrespective of who the two--who the Governor might be, there is usually at least one or more Democratic people that would be represented in this commission and vice versa and I think this is healthy since we do have a two party system but basically, this is the utilization of information and who controls the input will control the output and I have more faith in five people of both parties than I do of any one person of any party not only in the past, present but in the future. I think this is the key issue before Legislatures, not