

May 16, 1973

action and he would be rejected, if you reject this motion.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I simply want to say that there were five members of the Committee on Committees who voted in favor of approving Mr. Egermayer. There were four votes against and that makes nine votes. Since there are 13 members on the Committee, at least 4 were absent and not voting and as I recall, those persons who had been absent and not voting for about four meetings. Not all of them but most of them and so it was impossible to get him approved in the Committee and I firmly believe that had we had 13 persons there, we still could not have had an approval because I have talked to each of these men personally and have gotten some opinion as to how they would have voted had they been there. Now I was one of those who voted in favor of approving him. I felt that there was not enough wrong with him to what the Governor's appointment should stand. Now there was some objections but no particular reasons were given by the members of the Committee for not voting for him, in my judgment, that stood up. There is a copy of the transcript available if anybody wishes to read it. He did not use the proper choice of words once or twice which would give an impression which would not be too favorable for the State Colleges, the position for which he was appointed. Now, personally, I overlooked those words realizing that when you come now before the Committee on Committees you are shaking all over wondering whether or not you are going to be approved and that being the case sometimes when you are shaking a wrong word comes out. But that being as it is, I felt that there was not sufficient evidence against him. Now, Mr. Egermayer comes from Omaha and I believe he is a lawyer. He did not graduate from any of the State Colleges. As I recall, he did not graduate from the University of Nebraska but he is a graduate of a private school in Nebraska, which to my judgment didn't hurt him, and he has had quite a little business experience. He's President of two or three corporations. Probably, one of his weaknesses was that he had an opinion on every question that was asked and he definitely stated his opinion and obviously those things don't always go too good. The next man we had up before the Committee on Committees who was being appointed to the State College Board was very careful to realize that you should not be very quick in making an opinion and stating it but Mr. Egermayer was honest. He came right out and expressed what he thought and, in some cases this doesn't agree with.. because you have the wrong opinions and so I would say that I feel that a majority of the Committee on Committees would not have approved him had they all been there to vote. They probably would have gotten six votes, but it takes seven which would be the majority to put him out. So it is that close. So I leave it up to you but I do feel that whenever a Governor does make an appointment, we should consider very seriously approving that appointment and give that the benefit of the doubt.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore is next to speak, then Senator Syas, then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and members of the body, Mr. George Egermayer probably impressed me more favorably than anybody that appeared before our Committee on Committees. I think he was outstanding. I think he would help the State Colleges. He is blunt and I think he is a man of action and I think to turn him down is nothing more than character assassination. He is a layman. That's what we need. He fielded the questions honestly and ably. In fact, I congratulated him when he left how well that he did in fielding the many, many questions that were asked him,