

board who he or she felt was the best for District Medical Examiners. The board, though, would have the approval of the District Medical Examiners. We looked at the list of types of death that should be investigated. We deleted the phrase "medically unexpected". We deleted "automatic investigation of cremations and shipment of bodies out of the state". Those would not automatically be investigated. We did add, though, deaths in mental institutions, deaths in the Department of Institutions, threats to public health and work related deaths. We added language, and this is why the amendments are longer than the original bill. We went back through the statutes and found any references to the old County Coroner system and deleted those and inserted "Chief Medical Examiner". We established terms for the board members. We delayed the effective date of the bill until January 1, 1981 but allowed the board to be appointed before then so that there would be a phase-in period, and that way the board could meet, could start developing some criteria, could hire and interview the Chief Examiner and implement the program. We did not think the bill should take effect all at once. It has to be phased in to allow a transition from the existing County Coroner, the coroner jury system to the Chief Medical Examiner. We then clarified the expense reimbursement for pathologists. This was a concern of represented medical associations and we allowed the board power to establish additional facilities if necessary. Those are what the amendments do. Essentially they clarify the responsibilities. They change the board membership slightly. They reduce the per diem. They have been reviewed by the County Attorneys and representatives of the medical profession. Essentially, with these amendments the bill is acceptable to the County Attorneys. We have developed the bill off of the draft of the County Attorneys. As one member of the committee I want to thank the County Attorneys Association and Mr. Whetstone for his cooperation and willingness to work for an improvement in the system. I would move for adoption of these amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Goodrich, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, Mr. President, would Senator Fowler... where did he go? Oh. Would Senator Fowler yield to a couple of questions, please.

SENATOR FOWLER: I'll try.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay, Steve. What I really want to do is just establish....in other words, you said you were talking