

Commissioner of Labor and the Director of Administrative Services who are all appointees of the Governor. Now before the change of the law in 1981 the Claims Board was composed solely of constitutional officers, the Lieutenant Governor, the Treasurer and the Auditor. Adding these two additional members back to the board does give the board a broader representation and I think that would be good. It does still give a majority vote on the board to the Governor's appointees, the three people he appoints. There would be five people on the board instead of three and the three persons I first named are still on the board. So we will have five instead of three but we will add the State Treasurer and the Auditor. I ask the bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I don't think that this bill represents a particularly good change. In 1981 when we changed this law we changed this law because basically as I recall the constitutional officers didn't want to be involved in the State Claims Board process. By and large it is not a very glamorous process and by and large it was hard to get them to come to the meetings. And even at that point in time it was a smaller board of three, I think, Senator Lamb, was it not? It all depends on what your philosophy is I guess, but as far as I am concerned I would like to see all of the members of the Claims Board continue to be as they are now, members of the executive branch of government for whom the Governor is responsible. I think that is good. Right now it is the head of the Department of Insurance. The head of the Department of Insurance is a person who deals on a day to day basis with claims in all parts of the insurance industry. He is familiar with claims. He is familiar with the claims process. The Department of Labor also is a member, the head of the Department of Labor is also a member of the board. He also has a lot of experience in his day to day operation on claims and the claims process through dealing with all of the state's personnel. And finally, the third member of the board is the Director of DAS and under DAS of course is the Budget Division. So this is the branch of government that has the most knowledge about the state's budget, the expenditure figures. It seems to me that these three people on the board are the correct three people to be on the board and beyond that, that it is the correct philosophy to have the executive branch responsible. These