

think when a Republican senator brings a bill in and asks that two elected Republican officials be put on the board, I probably was very...well, stupid, I guess, to assume that it was a political bill and I apologize, Senator Lamb, and to all my Republican colleagues for even thinking that that was your intent. As Senator Lamb said, those names just happened to come to him. He never thought of anybody else and as the gentleman that came to testify for the bill said, Secretary Kay Orr has already volunteered, if asked to serve, she will. So I guess it was just misunderstanding on my part that it was a political bill and I apologize to all my Republican colleagues for having even mentioned the matter. And thank you, Senator Warner, for your words of explanation and for that reason I will withdraw my amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins has withdrawn her amendment, thank you, and, Senator Chambers, we're back to the bill again, motion to advance LB 136. Excuse me, there is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill. (Read Chambers' amendment as found on page 431 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, politics may be what is being played this morning and maybe not. Since I'm neither a demagogue nor a "repelican" I won't get into that aspect of it but this is what I will say. The avenue which must be traveled by a citizen with a claim against the state is the Claims Board. Despite all the bickering, the hostilities and whatever else may go into decisions made by the Legislature, I am regretful when I see us tamper with something that was put there for the benefit of the citizens rather than politicians. If people are upset about a specific decision by the Claims Board or with the types of persons that a Governor has appointed, I would hate to see the entire structure of the system changed which might make it virtually impossible for the citizens, as individuals or collectively if they share in a claim, to be denied a means to file a claim against the state. It would be better to do away with the hypocrisy and just say it is back to the situation where the state is like the king, has sovereign