

Legislature, I don't think the amendment is that critical but I can understand what Senator Beutler is trying to do and I hesitate to disagree with my good friend, Senator Higgins, but I do believe that Senator Beutler has made a good point. I want to point out that one of the things that concerns me somewhat, and I have watched a number of the so-called public appointees to various boards and I find them not to be necessarily representatives of the public, but frequently I find them to be adversarial rather than purely neutral representatives of the public. I want to point out that there are enough games that can be played within the confines of the individual appointees anyway and I would like to point out that I have heard a rumor, I don't know if it is true or not, of an appointee to the Water Management Board who is supposed to be representative of the water interests, who at the present time is certainly not, from my point of view, representing the user type of interest. And I hope that we find in the future that those appointments do, in fact, reflect the area which they are supposed to reflect. But I want to point out again, I think that Senator Beutler has pointed out something here which should be discussed and considered and that is that if you do not have someone that is knowledgeable, lack of knowledge does not necessarily mean neutrality but it could very well mean adversary. And sometimes that does not reflect the public's interest either. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I simply rise very briefly to support the position of Senator Beutler. I would agree with the previous speaker who said it is not a critical situation, but I think the amendment does make sense. Abstracting is a very technical field, extremely technical and I see no problem with simply inserting a lay person who is knowledgeable in real estate transactions. I think it is a very reasonable position. I intend to support the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz. Senator Higgins, do you wish to speak again? Go ahead.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. My good friend, Senator Schmit, where are you hanging out? Doggone it, after...Senator Schmit made the point that when you appoint