

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. President, I should relay to you that the Public Health and Welfare Committee did consider the amendment Senator Vickers is offering to you. In our consideration it was felt that because the hearing dealt only with the more narrow subject of the Bureau of Examining Boards, we didn't feel it was out prerogative in the committee to broaden the bill so broadly. But our sense was that it made sense. If it was right for the Bureau of Examining Boards not to meet outside the state, then really any board in the state should be under the same rules as that. So I would, as an individual, stand before you and support the Vickers amendment suggesting that it makes sense, that if we are to have open meetings and to have government accessible to the public, then to allow boards to meet outside of the state does not keep in the spirit of that law. We have an Attorney General's opinion that was written to Senator Haberman that was reviewed by the committee, which indicated that in fact the spirit of the law would be clear that open meetings would call for meetings in the state, thus accessible to Nebraskans. But the law never specifically prohibits specifically the allowing of a board to meet outside the state. So because the law is silent on that issue it was felt that it was not enough that the spirit of the law suggested that that not occur, but actual language needed to be adopted. So with that in mind, I think if it is good for the Bureau of Examining Boards, it should be good for all boards. I want to caution you that there was not discussion of a broader issue, that perhaps we want to allow the public knowledge of this amendment, not move too hastily on the bill. But I would support the bill. It does make sense. The issue ought to be provided to the public that we should not have these meetings outside of the state for anybody, let alone the Bureau of Examining Boards.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I have just been engaged in a discussion with Senator Rex Haberman, who supports Senator Vickers's amendment. Of course we've heard Senator Vickers talk about the amendment. I am of the opinion that I would not want to act on this amendment today without having more knowledge as to what some of the public bodies do have to do outside the State of Nebraska. Now I don't think that it is appropriate for any Board of Examiner Board to actually meet outside the State