

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to support the Vickers amendment. Senator Chambers is indulging in what I call an exaggeration technique and the exaggeration technique basically stretches to the limit a particular argument and then suggests that the limit is what the amendment or what the main argument is all about. Now I could stand up here and argue with you that democracy, the idea of democracy is terrible. Does that mean that...does that mean that children should be able to vote? Does that mean that everybody has to vote on every issue? 180 million people have to vote on every issue? I mean, you are talking about things in a context and things within limitations and qualifications and whether they make sense or not depends on those limitations and qualifications. If you argue democracy in its pure form, most of us might vote down democracy. Likewise with this particular proposition. Sure you can argue that no elected office should have limitations. But does that really make sense? Does that really make sense? Do you think that somebody that has no understanding of accounting can really supervise people who are dealing in complex questions of accounting? Or that somebody that has no training in the law can really supervise the work of somebody who is doing technical legal work? There is a distinction between technicians and between people who are called upon and other elected officials who are called upon to give broad public policy statements, a very, very big difference. As far as other states are concerned, I repeat to you that most states, a vast majority of states by one means or another have qualifications on the office and most of them have essentially sidestepped the elected public official, the elected public auditor. They have done it by appointing them and we are not asking that. They have done it by making them CPA's and now we are not asking that. All we are asking is to put us with the 30 or 35 states that have some qualifications for the office. I appreciate Senator Vickers' amendment. I think it is better than my amendment. I simply suggested to you my amendment at the beginning because I thought it was more of a compromise and easier to be accepted. But I certainly appreciate and accept the rationale of the Vickers amendment and would ask that it be adopted.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chizek, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. Speaker, I call the question.