

if you are going to be the State Auditor, you had ought to know something about auditing and accounting. That doesn't say you know everything about it. It doesn't say that you are an honest upright person. It doesn't say that you are well qualified to serve in that office. It doesn't say you are always going to do the various things that the people of the State of Nebraska would want you to do. It doesn't say you are automatically going to be elected or automatically reelected. I don't think we are taking a right of the citizens away from them to vote at all. And it is not something that is unheard of. As I indicated earlier, in many, many states they elect such people as the Commissioner of Education, but in those states where they elect them, and Iowa is one of them, they don't say that anybody can run for that position, you have got to have some qualifications. It seems to me that there is nothing wrong with saying that in the State Auditor's office. It seems to me there is nothing wrong with saying that, you know, for the business of government to operate correctly we had ought to have the correct people in those positions as far as their knowledge of that business. And I would further remind those of you that have been opposing this measure that the current State Auditor would qualify. We are not trying to disfranchise the current State Auditor at all. As I indicated a while ago, in a pure, ideal system that office and many other of the offices of government that function purely from an administrative position, purely from a technical position...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...in an ideal situation probably wouldn't be elected at all. They would probably be appointed. But we don't have that ideal situation. We are not going to change that situation. We have got to deal with the situation as it is. I think it makes sense to put in some minimal qualifications and I think that what we are putting in is reasonable and sensible.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am not going to spend a lot of time saying you ought to reject the amendment. What I think should happen to keep us from running into what we ran into yesterday is allow the amendment to be adopted, then we are