

dealing with the bill itself. And I do have a kill motion on the bill and at that time in discussion of that motion I will make whatever points I think I can make in trying to persuade you to adopt the kill motion. But right now, to facilitate the movement of things this morning, I think it would be worthwhile to adopt the amendment so that then we are discussing the bill itself.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Chizek.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I have been sitting here thinking about the debate this morning. Of course, I wasn't privileged to hear the debate yesterday. I find it interesting that we can spend as much time debating a bill which I would regard as a minor bill and so little time dealing with major issues such as the budget of the state. But that seems to be fairly typical of the legislative process that we can easily succumb to commitment of enormous amounts of time to minor issues because they are more understandable than the more consequential issues. The question is, if we elect an Auditor of Public Accounts, which we do, should we require the Auditor of Public Accounts to be a public accountant, a certified public accountant or to have any education whatsoever? In my view, the answer is simple. As long as the position is an elected position, then there should be no qualifications on that position other than an age qualification. Very simple. Why? Because when we give to the voters the right to make choices, we must assume that the voters will exercise their minds, their reasons, their thought processes, their intellectual powers to make the best choice. That is what ballot box democracy is about. Thus, the voters will read the guide put out by the League of Women Voters or the newspaper articles or the campaign literature, or hear the radio announcements or the TV commercials and will make their own decision as to whether or not the candidate for the position has the necessary qualifications to hold the position. In other words, when voters are entrusted with decision making responsibilities, we must entrust voters with full decision making responsibilities and that includes the ability to decide whether or not the Auditor of Public Accounts should be a certified public accountant, a public accountant, a college graduate, a high school graduate, or, heaven forbid, somebody with only an eighth grade certificate. That is the meaning of democracy. The meaning of democracy is that the