

May 1, 1985

LB 687

Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Beutler, would you like to close, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to move the adoption of the committee amendments. What is being asked of you today is not unreasonable in any sense. I don't think that by adopting a reasonable amendment today with regard to the public auditor that it means anything one way or another with regard to other offices in the state and what we may or may not do in that regard. Everything we do in moderation. We do it where it makes sense. We don't do it where it doesn't make sense. I think that in this particular case it makes a lot of sense and there are all kinds of jobs and professions in this society where we require minimum college degrees. With teachers, for example, they are required to have a college education. Surely if teachers are required, surely the person who is doing our auditing and accounting for the largest corporation in Nebraska ought to have some minimal qualifications. Now Senator Johnson claims he is a pure Democrat, but on the other hand it is all right to exclude minors. But on the other hand, it is all right to exclude aliens. But on the other hand, it is all right to exclude felons. And I suppose that is because, why? Now certainly Senator Johnson wouldn't say that the public is too dumb to recognize a felon, an alien or a minor. So why do we have those qualifications? I submit to you there are not really any pure Democrats in that sense in this body. And let me ask you this, we have put into the statute the fact that the two deputies and two assistants have to be CPA's in the public auditor's office. Now here we have this elected public auditor who should have under that theory all the full rights to choose the subordinates that he or she wants because he or she was elected by the people and should have all that authority, but that didn't preclude the Legislature from coming in by statute and saying, you will have three CPA's working for you because we recognize a rule of reasonableness, because we know that in order to compete with the corporate interests out there, in order that the people get a fair break with the corporate interests that the people who are representing the people have to be qualified, have to know what they are doing, have to be able