

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. Senator Barrett, do you wish to speak on the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR BARRETT: In an effort not to waste the body's time, let me simply say, Mr. President and members, that I rise in opposition to the Pappas amendment. I felt that Senator Landis's approach was unique. I can buy it in its entirety, particularly with the Landis amendment regarding the cutoff date. There seems to be a fear on the part of some members that if this is...if the appointment to the committee is made by the Governor, it might become political. As a member of the Executive Committee, I can assure you that there is just as much chance, if not more of a chance, for political hanky-panky if these appointments are made by the Executive Committee of this Legislature. Again, I oppose the Pappas amendment to the Landis amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers, the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, rise to oppose the Pappas amendment. When Senator Pappas offered his amendment, he said in the spirit of compromise. It is not in the spirit of compromise. If you look at the makeup of the Exec Board, allowing the Exec Board to do it certainly is not going to be a compromise and I appreciate Senator Barrett's comments. I agree with them. Also, as far as the date is concerned, we are acting as though we have nothing else to do in this body. We think we are going to be examining an issue that we have been told and I happen to agree with is an important issue, one of the more important issues that we can look at. And we are being told that we have plenty of time, we can sit down and we can do it. We can have a report back by members of this body who may or may not be totally impartial and we can have that report totally done by March the 15th. Now, we still have public hearings to go through. We still have a lot of bills to deal with. We are going to be doing other things. If you really believe that we are going to be able to have an in depth study and have it done by March the 15th, then you must believe in the tooth fairy, Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. The fact of the matter is, under the Landis amendment, under the Landis resolution, the report...and it is a report, by March 25th makes a lot of sense, talking about the recommendations, talking about what is being done at that time. But I remind you, because it is such an