

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp would move to amend the committee amendments. (DeCamp amendment found on page 1474 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, what my amendment does is really change one word but it is an important word. It changes the last word of the sentence I am going to read to you. "The director shall administer the affairs of the department, and he or she shall serve at the pleasure of the commission." That is what is in there. My word changes it to the pleasure of the "governor". In other language in the bill the commission already has the power to set the salary and all those things. I guess I think the more I think about it that if you don't do it this way you are indeed creating a complete minigovernment. Now what is the minigovernment have the responsibility for? Economic development. Will they do a good job? I suppose so but, but remember this and this is important, the minigovernment is going to consist of 15 members and those members are from business mostly. They represent special interests. They are going to be good, sincere, dedicated, hardworking people who represent special interests ultimately. Now what happens in here?. What happens in here is you and I know we tend to go one way or another depending upon the pressure, the power, the arguments of this special interest group or that. Special interest groups are wonderful. They are a part of the whole process but they are also something else. They are special interest, their own special interest. Unless you have a system that is ultimately accountable, and you can only have that if you have an elected official, quite frankly. He may be the worst twit you ever elected or she but it ultimately is the only way our system in this country has gotten to have accountability, and you have taken that away if you don't adopt an amendment of this sort. You have got to have some system ultimately that funnels into accountability and you only give that by giving that Governor the power to remove that director, the person that controls it. There is another reason and this is even a more important one. If you will go historically to those types of business entities in different states where you give too much business control, and I am as probusiness I think as anyone, but if you give too much business control, instead of promoting economic development, they have a tendency to do something else. Believe or not, business