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to state what I think we're doing this morning and hopefully clarify what we're not doing, if I understand the procedure correctly, but we're here this morning to confirm certain members in accordance with the recommendation of the Natural Resources Commission. Two persons were not recommended for confirmation by the committee. Now if I'm remembering correctly the situation with one of those two persons is that they did not come before the committee, nor had they been heard from, and so the committee is holding that one pending further information and further...some sort of further relationship with the individual who is asking to be confirmed. The second individual was somewhat controversial in nature I guess it would have to be said with regard to his past interest and the relationship of his past interest to what he would be doing in the future on the council. However, that matter I believe will be further considered by the committee and in my opinion at least, to get into a debate on that particular situation at this particular point in time would be premature and a waste of our time. Should that individual not be confirmed by the committee, then obviously that will be a matter for this body but I just wanted to clarify that further action is in all probability pending on the two individuals who are not being confirmed today and that the motion today is simply to confirm those that have been recommended by the committee. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, members, I apologize for being a little late, will not take a lot of time in my comments because Senator Beutler touched upon points that I'd like to clarify. Don't wish to give a speech on each and every one of the applicants here that, or conferees that we are about to confirm, but Mr. Richard Sommer I think is the eye of the storm of what we're hearing from Senator Morrissey about today, the fact that we did not confirm that particular individual. There was two basic concerns expressed in the committee, I'd like to express them on the floor. The first, as Senator Beutler had indicated, Mr. Sommer had been involved with a particular organization that was challenging a uranium mining company's right to work, I guess, here in the State of Nebraska and their ownership. I guess the concern expressed by some members of the committee was could this individual be objective when he is going to be sitting on the council which permits this type of operation in Nebraska, although this company, I think already