

that we're talking about is an extraordinary group. Most agencies do not have a body that's sitting there to approve their rules and regulations. Most agencies make their own rules and regulations. But with DEQ we have a body, an advisory group that, for whatever reason we've seen fit, to be the rule and regulation-making body, approval body, for that particular agency. And our suggestion to you is that that's the way that it should be, that it should be dealing with rules and regulations and with general policy, that it's not appropriate to start inserting these kinds of groups into the every-day administrative decisions of any particular agency, including this particular agency. And that, in fact, you may recall when we polled the actual members of this advisory council, half of them do not want to be at all involved in administrative decisions. The other half, some did and some...all expressed some hesitation about becoming involved, because they will become involved. As soon as it's known that they are going to be the final decision-maker what will soon happen is that the department will have to start feeding them information from the beginning on every little grant, because people will come to them, ultimately, if they don't get the right decision out of the director. And then you'll have the effect of politicizing the whole process, and soon, I predict, the board will become bogged down with these kinds of decisions. Already they're bogged down with the rule and reg making process that they're involved in. One meeting created a real crisis in January because they couldn't get through their whole agenda. They've got a tremendous agenda. I think it would be a major mistake to suggest that they should be involved in each and every grant, and some of these grants are real small, each and every grant process that goes on. So I hope you will keep in mind the problems...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that this could cause, and I hope you will also keep in mind that the committee has indicated, as Senator Bromm indicated to you last time, that we would take a look at this process in the context of what's happening every place else in government, how do we handle it in other agencies, are we consistent, and come back to you with a suggestion for a consistent policy after taking a broad view of the matter, instead of reacting to a particular situation. The current law is not good, we've changed the current law to give the director authority, so I think that's better than what current law is. I