

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body. To continue on Senator DeCamp's thing--golly, gee, I guess the problem we have here is whether or not we feel, and we can make the decision on a year-by-year basis whether this committee is worthwhile or not. I would like to submit to the Legislature that I don't believe this committee is worthwhile right now. I've heard a lot of arguments that it is, primarily from people that are on the committee. I'd like to get on the committee too, I think it would be a lot of fun. But do we need the committee is the key question. I don't think very many people are addressing that, whether or not this committee is necessary, whether it is beneficial, and whether it does anything. I think that it would be beneficial, if this committee has to go before the Exec Board each year, basically a Board that makes decisions on a number of things that reflect, and especially since this committee only meets after the session is over with, and basically takes trips from here to there, etc., whether or not they can justify those trips and whether or not they can justify the existence of that committee. I think that is all this amendment does. This amendment was offered originally by Senator Mills. I do not know why he pulled it off except it maybe is the same reason I voted to send this bill out of committee, because some nice guys serve on the committee and you hate to take away their fun and games. I think the real issue here, again as I said before, is whether or not we can justify this committee. If we can justify this committee then I think the committee chairman and its members should go before the Exec Board each and every year and say "Yes, we took that trip to Washington. Yes, we took that trip to Afghanistan, and yes, we have a valid reason for doing that". I think that is exactly the issue. I think this is a good amendment. I think it is the kind of justification that we need. If this amendment does not pass maybe we ought to try a sunshine provision, like we're going to pass shortly during this session and have this committee come back and justify itself sometimes. It is fine to have sunset for other provisions of legislation and other committees, and so forth, but we don't want to revise and relook at our own committees. I'm sure that if this is passed that we really ought to do that sunset thing. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Senator Clark a question. Senator Clark, a question. Senator Clark, you've already told us the telephones on our desks are a result of the work of your Committee.

SENATOR CLARK: Yes.

SENATOR KREMER: You have also been responsible for our WATTS line arrangements, the number that we have, where we go, what we do. Is this not true?

SENATOR CLARK: Yes, and that was due to the bill we put in to make a Director of Telecommunications.

SENATOR KREMER: Yes sir, and I think it can be demonstrated through the years, and you and I have been here quite awhile, we've seen the importance of this Committee. I'm going to vote against the proposed amendment. I think this Committee has done an excellent job. A lot of the facilities we have today is a result of your work and I deeply appreciate it.