

I don't think this is any laughing matter at all. I think it is very serious because the bill is very serious, but because of the lack of seriousness, I think I had better get some other statistics and I will offer that on Select File. I withdraw that.

CLERK: Mr. President, I move to strike all amendments to the original bill, LB 257. Signed Senator Newell.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to speak in favor of the motion to strike all the amendments that have been put on today, those amendments which I feel are less than serious, that are more aimed at conducting a witch hunt than they are at making some changes or even trying to benefit the bill. I would like to leave the original committee amendments as they were but I think there is a great need to stop this horsing around and try to pass, or at least, try to move a bill that means something in terms of sunset. I would like to speak briefly to those people who are making these superfluous amendments and I would like to ask them that if they are so concerned with making some changes and if they would like to go out and conduct witch hunts, that they do that in a proper and a decent sort of way and in an very honest way. I think they ought to say, bring a resolution before the Legislature and say that they want to conduct a witch hunt. A couple of these people have done that in various other things and I think they ought to be just as honest now. I would like to see and I am arguing for the original bill as it was. I think this has gone, and I am trying to be very serious, I think this has gone a little too far. I think it is most ridiculous thing that we have done so far. We have talked about using the sunset vehicle to conduct witch hunts very much akin to the McCarthy witch hunts that took place by that committee on investigation during the '50's and while I was not there to personally watch those committee hearings and so forth, I have read enough to know that they are not the most flattering, they are not the greatest hour that the American political system has ever had and I think that those people who would want to embarrass or criticize and so forth ought to be honest and ought to do that in the proper way and that is to ask that their committees, and many of them are chairmen of committees, take their committees and go off and do their witch hunting in those ways but leave this bill to do what was originally intended to do and that is to review the necessity of commissions and boards and departments and so forth that may or may not be needed. I think the people that want to use those mechanisms to do away with the Department of Revenue, to do away with the Department of Education, to do away with Planning and Programming, you know, I am kind of surprised that they haven't added the Governor's office. I think that that is the only thing that they have failed to add here and I am sure that that amendment is wending its way to the Clerk's desk. But I think we have got to get back to the original intent of this bill and that was to provide a relevant review of the various agencies and so forth. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Venditte asked for the previous question. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate