Pederson, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to speak about the original tree rather than its ornaments at this moment. The issue that has been raised by Senator Schimek in the initial bill was addressed by the Appropriations Committee this year. And part of the motivation for this coming before the Appropriations Committee was what you've heard on this floor a lot, and that is that a federal government program is started or initiated and then it's dropped and then the question is, can the state or should the state pick up the issue after the federal government has initiated some form of a program? So with that in mind, I would direct you to the amendment to LB 1060 where the Appropriations Committee, under the Military Department, dealt with this issue and asked that...I'll read it to you so that you will see, because maybe you just don't have it right at the tip of your tongue. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency shall, by March 1 of each year--that would be next year--provide a report to the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature on the past, present, and future use of homeland security funding. No expenditure of state, federal, or other funding sources administered by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for homeland security purposes shall be made for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1 until the agency has provided the report to the committee. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the planned use of known and anticipated future funding as well as information on the past use of funding within the last five years, including specific amounts allocated for any unit of state or local government. The report shall also assess the risk that the state funding will be needed in the future to supplement nonstate sources of revenue in order to continue the homeland security activity at both the state and local level. So we were very concerned that suppose a portion of this is initiated by the federal government, then they drop the funding as they continually do, and then we say, well, we've got to keep this going. So we wanted to know on the appropriations process what they're going to use it for, what the intended use was, and the funding for that purpose and what the likelihood of that continuing. So it's intent language, but we did address the issue and we were concerned, as is represented by Senator Schimek's bill. We were