

further amendments?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would now move to return LB 378 to the Public Health and Welfare Committee.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will be brief. The arguments were made during the previous discussion on the amendment. If any of you can explain to me what is in this bill now, then fine, vote to advance it. That is okay. If you can't explain what is in the bill and if you don't know what we have just done to it with this amendment, I would ask you please to support the return of the bill to the committee for a hearing. It is only fair. It is only the right thing to do and I think that at that time we can fully discuss the issues. Again I mention to you, the amendment we just adopted was first intended to be a bill from the committee, to be heard by the committee and then acted upon by the committee. Instead they bypassed the committee, came through with this amendment and we are on General File now. I think, okay, the amendment has been adopted. Let's get it back to committee, have that hearing that was originally intended. It is early in the session. It could be held very shortly and those of you who are trying to support changes in CON law will not be delayed unduly by it but at least the public will have a chance to comment on this proposal, at least the public will have a chance to know what we are proposing, and you will have a chance to know what is in the proposal and what is in the bill. I talked to several of the Senators who asked me, well, what is in it and I tried to explain as briefly and as quickly as I can but it is a very major change, a significant change that many people are interested in. At least allow those of us in the body concerned about the issue the chance to find out what exactly is in there, allow the public a chance to find out what is in there, and let's send it back to committee and deal with it in that status and then advance it again and consider it on the floor.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell and then Senator Cullan.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it seems to me that the essence, you know the argument here is how substantive the changes have been, and I think the question always remains, just what is substantive? Senator Cullan says, by and large all I did is move the dollar amounts up which frankly has a tremendous impact and may or may not have prejudged the committee's intent. Certainly the same people that would appear at a public hearing last year would not be the same people that would appear at a