

did you wish to speak to the amendment only?

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes, I guess I would like to speak to the amendment as I understand it, which is to strike "many millions" of dollars and provide the more precise figure of "fifty million" dollars. It seems to me that since the State of the Union Address and the recent budget that Senator Chambers sent us copies of some of the statements with regards to federal funding, and I think we are all familiar that there have often been times that we have got into programs and projects based on promise of future federal funds and they weren't there. Kind of like Charlie Brown, Lucy and the football. You go running at the football and then it is pulled away at the last minute and find yourself flat on your back. What is unique perhaps is that I don't think anyone ever really thought that in the area of federal highways the federal government would pull the football away, yet that exactly seems to be what is proposed. Now if we are going to make a commitment as a state to a project and we want to get it started, I think we have...particularly a project of this scale, we have to decide in our minds whether or not if it is started are we going to provide the dollars to finish it? A freeway that goes nowhere that is never finished is a totally useless freeway, and therefore I think we really ought to assess this. Now if we are going to make a commitment to \$50 million, if that is what its cost is, that's what we ought to do today rather than many millions of dollars. I guess I would at least support the amendment to make this resolution more precise as to the dollar amount those of us in the Legislature are willing to commit on this project in case the new federalism is, in fact, adopted, the economic recovery program continues in its current efforts to build America up and get the country moving again by sending everything back to the states, if that is the direction we are going to continue, then this Legislature has the responsibility to commit itself to funding these programs before they are started. So I would support the amendment but on the resolution I am afraid, Senator Chambers, I could not support it because I do not think that, in fact, we can make that sort of a commitment and, in fact, that is one reason that I oppose the North Freeway is that I do not think this state has, or the City of Omaha has the resources to finish this project. And I guess I would just like to ask Senator Chambers one question that might change my mind with regards to supporting the resolution even though I support the amendment, and that is, Senator Chambers, could you provide for me any sort of merits, value, any sort of constructive thing