

hauling of coal, so on. Fires are being started. People are running into trains, and if you conclude that the safety of Nebraskans is involved, then I think you have an obligation to do a safety measure here the same as you would put crossarms to protect crosswalks, the same as you would put stop signs at various places on highways. I think maybe the big error of both the labor unions and the railroads is to try to characterize something that affects all Nebraskans, our safety, our farms, our ranches, our lives as something they can sit and play around with negotiations and collective bargaining. They have got no business bargaining away the safety of Nebraskans. They have got no business saying we don't need overpasses because they are expensive. They have got no business saying we don't need crossarms here because it will raise the price of hauling something and therefore not be enough money for the unions or not be enough money for the railroads to make a profit. Very simply it is a safety issue in my humble opinion, and for that reason, and for that reason only because it is a Nebraska people issue, not a labor union or a railroad issue, I am voting to advance the bill at this time assuming it is not killed. I would suggest that you check with your people and find out, are they concerned about multitudes of trains going through with only somebody up front and nothing in the rear to check on all the various things that can happen. I know this, just driving, for example as a lot of people in this room have done, just driving a motor home, just driving a motor home down the road, I have noticed it is a lot safer to have somebody riding in the back of that motor home to give you information on what may or may not be happening to the side and to the back and so on and so forth. Well, with something a thousand times as long as a motor home, it seems to make a little sense to have some other safety measure back there than just an engineer up front. And the argument that there are cabooses already there, then what is the problem with ensuring it in law from a safety standpoint? If they are already there, then certainly there should be no objection from a safety standpoint of ensuring that it remains there. So I would urge against the kill motion, and I repeat one final time, I am a bit angered at either the labor unions or the railroads sitting there talking as if this is their issue to negotiate and trade away the safety of Nebraskans. I think they are out of line and I think this is a matter for Nebraskans and not labor unions or railroads to trade away one way or the other.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we proceed, it is my privilege to introduce former Mayor Al Veys and Mrs. Veys and I think you are underneath the balcony, right over there. Will you stand so we may recognize you. Senator Vickers.