

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Am I introducing the Hall amendment to the committee amendment?

PRESIDENT: Yes, you are.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay.

PRESIDENT: Yes, and you may take them as you choose.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay. Yeah, I probably will do a little explanation of the bill, the committee amendments and the Hall amendment all at once. First of all, I would like to say what a pleasure it is to finally get to be able to discuss an education bill on the floor. We haven't had one here for 20 hours, at least, since we've...this, I think, will for awhile anyway slow down, as soon as we deal with this one will slow down some of the glut we have had with education bills being debated here on the floor. LB 250 is a bill whose primary sponsor is Senator Tim Hall, brought to him by a number of constituents in his district. I helped do some work on it last year and again this year and co-signed it. It deals with an awareness of human relations by teachers in our public schools. Dealing, primarily by human relations, we are talking about the ability to relate to understand the various ethnic groups that make up our society here in Nebraska. We are not a homogeneous society in Nebraska by any means. A number of our young people who go through teacher training get jobs teaching, are placed in an environment where they are dealing with people from many different cultures in their classrooms, maybe don't have the skills necessary to recognize cultural differences to be sensitive to the types of things that they are teaching in the manner in which they are presenting information, and it is Senator Hall's belief and my belief that teachers should have this training. The original bill, itself, indicated, talked about a competency in human relations. That, the committee decided, I think primarily through Senator Bernard-Stevens' help, that a test after they got out probably wasn't the best method, that this type of training needs to be integrated into the teacher training institutions. It is primarily what the committee amendments do. Senator Hall is bringing an amendment to the committee amendments to clarify on behalf of the teacher training institutions that this training can be and should be integrated into the existing teacher training program, that it does not