

closing and, hopefully, take up my amendment to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Withem, for that opening. Before proceeding to the first amendment, Senator Withem, I would like to announce that Senator Smith has some guests in the north balcony, 56 sixth graders from St. Michael's in Hastings, with their teacher. Would you people please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're glad to have you. And also in the north balcony Senator Rogers has nine eighth graders from Farwell Public Schools in Farwell, Nebraska and their teacher. Would you people please stand and take a bow. Thank you. We're glad to have you with us. Also, before recognizing the amendment on the desk, two more bills are to be removed from the list shared with you earlier. On the second page, please delete LB 143 and the following bill, LB 213. Please delete LB 143 and LB 213 from your list of bills. To the first amendment, Senator...or, excuse me, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem had amendments printed on page 1452. Senator, I understand you want to withdraw AM1196.

SENATOR WITHEM: That is correct.

SPEAKER BARRETT: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to amend. Senator, I have AM1282 before me, found on page 1526 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I kind of...at my opening I kind of alluded to this bill being...this concept being one that was advanced to me by an individual that serves on one of the governing boards for higher education. When we introduced the bill we basically took his ideas literally and put them in the bill and that was the bill around which we had the hearing and the way it was introduced. After the hearing, I, personally, got to the way...I didn't particularly like the way the green copy of 247 was written. I had about four concerns. Concern number one was I wasn't sure that the committee on...or the Committee on the Colleges for the Future, or whatever hokey term it was that we used to title this commission, that the makeup of that commission and its independent nature was the right way to go. So what we're doing