money has been allocated but it's not been for the first part of the next biennium but rather the total amount spread over the two years. So I think we should give them that...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...flexibility this morning. Whether it's needed or not, I don't know. So I would encourage the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please, further discussion.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the...I think it has been suggested this particular agency has had some discussion over the last few weeks from a variety of purposes. I should point out that, first, relative to the...at least, to the Hastings plant if some portion of these funds are to be used for that, I don't know, but, in any event, there is no change in the authorization prior to July 1 of this year so the current appropriation bill has the full as things now...the current law has the full authorization unless changed in the deficit bill which it has not been changed. Secondly, the reason I suspect...well, the reason that the funding was put as it was in the bill since from the time the Legislature adjourns until we're next in session is roughly seven months, a little over, it was the feeling that it might be appropriate to wait until there is some definitive use for these funds rather than just the open blank checkbook for the whole biennium and if, in fact, there is a firm proposal that develops after July 1, I would suspect that the sheer processing of it would be such that when the Legislature met in January, if it seemed to be a desirable thing to use this nearly $18 million, that it could be handled in a deficit bill at that time. I also had a call from Senator Schmit, who is attending a funeral and couldn't be here today, indicating that he would hope that the current provisions of the bill remain intact. He indicated I was to indicate that he was in support of the bill as it is currently drafted and, secondly, the comment that he felt that because of some of the problems that seems to have been talked about may or may not been real but, nevertheless, some of the issues that have been talked about that, in his words, it would send the wrong signal to the commission to give a blanket authority with no subsequent legislative supervision as would be provided by the way the bill is drafted. So it would seem to me that it is not unreasonable,