PRESIDENT: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, thank you, Senator Wesely. I, too, will try to be brief. I guess I keep thinking in my own mind how I would relate this whole issue to the matter of my own pocketbook and here we're talking about the state's pocketbook. If I had just received a windfall and had a long-standing debt on my Visa card, and I wanted to redecorate my house, and I wanted to buy a new car, my first responsibility would be to pay that long-standing debt on my Visa card, and then, if I had left over money, to redecorate my house or buy my new car. Ladies and gentlemen, it's as simple as that. We have a debt and we need to pay it. It should be at the very top of our list this year. I would like to just read to you from the Attorney General's Opinion that puts it very clearly in perspective for all of us. It says, through LB 356 the Nebraska Legislature is making a good faith effort to address a situation which has seriously eroded confidence in state government. In LB 356 the Legislature clearly describes the circumstances and public purposes it is addressing, based on those circumstances. In my judgment, the courts would uphold the action of the Legislature here as the fulfillment of an appropriate public purpose, as identified and described by the elected representatives of the citizens of Nebraska. And, Senator Goodrich, I don't think that paying off part of my Master Card debt would discharge my responsibilities. I would still have the rest of that hanging over my head until I paid it. I would encourage you to vote against the Goodrich amendment to the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR LAMB: I would like a ruling from the Chair on germaneness of this issue, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT: All right, thank you. Senator Lamb, as far as the amendment to the amendment, that is germane. Were you questioning that?

SENATOR LAMB: Pardon.

PRESIDENT: Were you questioning the germaneness of the amendment to the amendment?