

on the committee amendments.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Senator Chambers does a pretty good job in that he comes and says that Senator McFarland was comparing apples with oranges but, quite frankly, if we look right at the committee amendments, he has got the proverbial cart before the horse. We are not talking in this bill or even in these committee amendments about creating a three judge panel. There is a bill in the Judiciary Committee, I assume it has been referenced there, that we will have a public hearing about. If you look very closely to the committee amendments, and I think it is lines 4 through 7 are really the heart of the matter, and what that says is that a party is going to be entitled to one appeal to the appellate court created here, either to the appellate court or the Supreme Court. It isn't denying you the right to go to the Supreme Court. Who gets that choice? We do. This body is going to determine who gets to go to the Supreme Court and who goes to the appellate court. That is not going to be decided surreptitiously. That is not going to be decided in committee. That is going to be decided right here on the floor of the Legislature, and so Senator Chambers brings up some very good points that we need to discuss when we get into the heart of the bill, but as far as the committee amendments are concerned, they are not establishing a separate court of appeals; they are not limiting us to the number of judges we are going to have; they are not even limiting the right of someone who is convicted of manslaughter to have a right to the appeal to the Nebraska Supreme Court. And so I think that Senator Chambers is getting ahead of himself. He has got some good points that I think we should discuss. I think we ought to discuss that once we get the committee amendments put on, and then the bill will take a form that is appropriate for that kind of discussion.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to pause for a moment and recognize a special guest of Senator Carson Rogers under the north balcony, a member of the State Board of Education from Litchfield, Nebraska, Thelma Lang. Thelma, would you take a bow, please. We are pleased to have you with us today. Come again. The Chair recognizes Senator McFarland, Senator McFarland for additional discussion on the committee amendments. Senator Chambers, would you like to continue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, and, Mr. Chairman, so that Senator Kristensen will understand why I am going into other issues, I