

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Johnson. Thank you. Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator Haberman. Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the constitutional amendment and the committee amendment for many reasons, but now I would just mention one. We seem to be in a state of affairs where we're going to possibly raise the sales tax, raise the income tax, property taxes have gone up. The people are very, very concerned that taxes are going up. They're concerned with the cost of county government, city government, schools and state government. If we adopt the committee amendments and/or if we adopt 233CA, we're going to increase the cost of running this establishment. We're going to bring everyone in, plus the staff, for five days, then we're all going to go home and then we're all going to come back again. Now, I don't have the figure as to what this would cost. I believe that the propo...the people who are proponents of the bill should give us that figure as to what it's going to cost the citizens of Nebraska to run this establishment to more or less our convenience. Our convenience, because we're saying we want to come in here to reorganize and after we reorganize then we want to go home and then we want to come back again. I don't think the citizens are going to support the issue on a constitutional ballot. As the Chairman of the committee said, in his opening statement, the citizens feel better when we're not in session. So I don't think it's going to pass. I'm going to oppose it because of the additional cost, because it's to our convenience, not the citizens' convenience. And then we have the proposal also of the number of days to introduce bills. The introducer of the proposal said he will support cutting the time to introduce the bills from 10 to 5 days. There is no guarantee that that is going to pass. We could still end up with 15 days to introduce legislation and, quite frankly, if that happens, I, personally, don't want to go home because they're a little upset now by the number of bills that we introduce. So, with those remarks, Mr. President, the cost of calling us in here and sending us back and calling us in is considerable, so I oppose the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, on the amendment, followed by Senators Smith, Crosby and Korshoj.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would Senator Coordsen