

Schimek, on the Moore amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. I had my light on to speak on the bill and I will put my light back on. I have asked Senator Wesely if he would not like to use this time to respond to Senator Moore. So I'll yield to Senator Wesely.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you very much, Senator Schimek. Yes, I would rise in opposition to deleting Section 37. I've talked to Senator Moore a little bit about this, and I understand what he's trying to do. Let me suggest a couple of things. First off, is there any commitment to do a housing study by the Policy Research Office and by the administration? He says that all this is going to be done anyway. And in my estimation, I've not heard yet one commitment whatsoever that there is going to be an attempt to bring together the different policy needs of the state. And so I just ask, when Senator Moore gets his chance to come back up again, what are the plans over there? What are they going to do? What is the strategy in the Policy Research Office to address the issue of housing, because at this point all I know is they get together and have a coordinating committee that sits over coffee or something and talks about things, and that is great, but we need some action. We need some effort to try and address the housing issue. Is that going to happen or not with or without the bill? My point is I don't think that it will, and I think it should. I think housing is a very, very important issue. We did the study last year and you got copies of it back in the fall. What we found is essentially this, we really abandoned housing as a state issue back at... and I'm not going to blame Governor Orr for this, it started with Governor Kerrey when we dropped some initiatives in the Economic Development Department, and we cut back in the Policy Research Office, and we simply, where we in the seventies had had some initiatives, found that those were all dropped and forgotten, and we saw a rise in concern for housing. The homeless issue has come of age, and yet this state has not responded in the way that it ought to be. We have no articulated housing policy in this state. We have no housing policy. And I think it would be most appropriate for us to do that. We started down the road, and I applaud the Governor for having brought together different state agencies to work on this. But what will it accomplish? What will we gain by it, if there is, in fact, no effort to