

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abboud, are you in the Chamber? The amendment is withdrawn. Thank you.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit would move to amend the bill. Senator, I have your AM3319 in front of me.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, this amendment makes it a Class I misdemeanor if a person or individual furnishes information he or she knows to be false to a special committee of the Legislature, including the senators on the committee, counsel and special investigators with the intent to instigate or impede an investigation by the committee. I think that we have had some concern as to whether or not an individual who appears before a special committee is under any special pressure to tell the truth. I think it is important that anyone who testifies before a committee understands that they need to tell the truth. There have been instances, of course, in this investigation where our investigator has placed a witness under oath, that witness has testified that what they are saying is the truth, that they understand the penalty for perjury and that is a separate instance. In this particular instance, for example, it is at the present time unlawful to give false information to a police officer. This is a situation where if the individual is testifying before a special committee, even though they are not under oath it is unlawful to give false testimony. I would hope that there would be some discussion of the amendment. We did introduce the bill five days before the end of the session and the bill did not have opportunity for hearing. I would like to have it discussed. It is not a major issue with me, but I just wanted to bring it up here on the floor because I believe it's imperative that a special committee not be treated with disdain by a witness who testified before it. I believe it's important that any time that a committee is in session that individuals do not come before the committee and simply speak without understanding they are under some pressure to tell the truth.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Schmit amendment to LB 1246. Senator Landis followed by Senator Crosby.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if either the Clerk or Senator Schmit could identify where in the Journal we could find the amendment. And let me ask, has this been