

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Senator Warner's attempts here to amend the resolution and I don't think it's necessary. I appreciate the perception, maybe, by some of the members who voted for the bill that they were voting for more than just ConAgra. I see that that amendment that Senator Warner introduced attempts to include all businesses in it. But I also appreciate Senator Warner when he voted on LB 775 and voting against it. I think it was a vote of understanding and made a statement about the type of policy we were enacting. Nevertheless, I really think we're deceiving ourselves if we're trying to say that 775 was not enacted at the behest of and under the direction of ConAgra. There are stories, and I'm sure they're substantially true, about ConAgra's lawyers being down in the Revenue Committee offices, all during 1987, drafting language, suggesting language, proposing language, amendments and what have you to LB 775 itself. As a matter of fact, here recent when someone told me that Senator Johnson, who was head of the Revenue Committee at that time, in fact, said that...said to some of the lawyers in exasperation, he said to the ConAgra lawyers, tell me what you want and we'll put it in the bill. And they did, I mean, you take a look at the specific provisions of that bill, including the provisions to give tax credits for corporate jets, that whole bill was structured and could not have been more customized in its drafting than for ConAgra itself. There was another joke about ConAgra's lawyers that someone told me that they were around the Revenue Committee offices so much and the standard joke was that not only do they wear suspenders, they wear belts too. These fellows were down there trying to give every economic break they could in that bill to ConAgra, squeeze every penny of concession out of the Legislature that they could and that's what they were hired and trained to do and that's what they were paid very well to do on behalf of ConAgra. Some of the newspaper accounts of that time period have been circulated already and all anyone has to do is go read the newspaper accounts during that 1987 legislative session and the Conway amendment that was added and ConAgra then threatened to leave the state if the amendment was not withdrawn. And so we came marching in and the majority of this body voted to withdraw...to strike the Conway amendment, and all the threats and intimidation that was going on, it was clear what that bill was designed to do. So I don't think the amendments that Senator Warner proposes really are going to change that perception or that...or that reality that it was specifically enacted for ConAgra. And I don't plan to vote for the