

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you. I, you know, I voted for this out of Urban Affairs and then I was struck by the comment by the Mayor that if you have a chance to vote a taxing authority out of business, so to speak, that maybe you should grab it. So I have mixed feelings about continuing this commission, particularly forever. So...but I appreciate those comments. I see Senator Hannibal is back. Senator Hannibal, I had asked the question why Senator Lynch was carrying this bill when you had introduced it...introduced it originally. And he may have the rest of my time if he would like.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President, I didn't hear...

PRESIDENT: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: ...the question that Senator Lynch was talking about.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Why Senator Lynch is on the bill and you were originally.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President and members, I introduced 1043 with the understanding or at least with the perception, on my part, that it was an issue that was completely devoid of any political ramifications or perceptions of ramifications of any kind and that it was strictly a very simple situation. After that went through the committee hearing and General File and Select File, it became clear that it wasn't quite as simple as that, at least in some people's minds. I decided to not support the bill and carry my name only for one reason and that is that if there were some political problems or some political rumors, real or perceived, factual or imagined, regardless of what those were, that had I envisioned that to begin with I would not have been involved in the bill to start with. So, without trying to make any statement as to validity or invalidity of the rumors, I decided to back away from the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch. Senator Pirsch, did you...did you withdraw it? It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, do you wish to read LB 1043. But let me introduce some guests, please, of Senator Nelson. In the south balcony, we have 56 students from Wasmer Elementary School, Grand Island and their teachers. Would you folks all please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for visiting us today. Mr. Clerk, LB 1043.