

your light is on, did you wish to discuss this further?

SENATOR SMITH: Are there other lights?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, there are.

SENATOR SMITH: I would just say one thing then, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, again in response to Senator Withem's concern and for your benefit, Senator Withem. We...this is the reason that their budget is in the, you know, the situation that it's in is because, again, I probably am partially to blame for this. We provided them with another new increase requirement and we didn't include any fee increases as a part of that. And that's what happened with the simulcasting bill that we passed, you know, in prior years, among other things. And so that's why I feel that what we are doing in this bill is increasing their responsibility of regulatory duties by what we're asking for with the fingerprinting, which is a new responsibility. And so that, to me, it does justify the reason why we would need to expand their budget then. So I hope that kind of helps a little bit to answer your concern. But, based on that again, I don't know whether I'm going to bother to go through everything I've gone through again. But if there are questions, I will try to respond to them. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. I would like to, before we continue to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Wehrbein. They are under the south balcony. They are Don Ainsworth, Roger Davis, John Davis and Steve Mahanes, and they're all from the Nebraska City School for the Visually Handicapped. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thanks for being with us. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I rise to oppose Senator Smith's amendment but I don't...Senator Smith, none of this is directed at you because I've been in the same situation where I've been asked to carry an amendment for the department, whatever it might be, as many of us have on specific issues. And this is clearly not directed at you. But this issue deals with increasing fees, fees to individuals who are in the industry, who have never been asked about increasing the fees for some of these issues such as regulation and oversight that Senator Smith clearly and accurately points out that we've increased. If they were that important, if the need was that