

questions of me, but first I would like to deal with the concern that Senator Kristensen raised. He said something about a fund for other railroads in the state. Certainly, this proposal is keyed toward the Chicago-Northwestern, which is not a branch line, but is a mainline in northern Nebraska, but there is provision in the bill that if there is...if there are funds available, that there would be a revolving fund so that the commission, which is set up here, could consider the merits of any line, any branch line in the state. So we are not just purely looking at one railroad. One of the questions that Senator Moore had concerned the funding, and I know, I understand his problems in that area, and I think they are similar to the problems that the Governor has expressed, although the Governor has been highly supportive of the bill and I appreciate that. There is no substantial funding in the bill right now, and what is the state's liability down the road? If I had my druthers, if I had my druthers, here is what I would like to do with the bill. I would like to buy that railroad for \$7 million, which it is for sale for \$7 million. The net salvage value, as Senator Wickersham mentioned, is between 9 and 10 million dollars. So the state's investment is protected. It is protected. So then I would say, I would say to the people up there, the shippers, the communities involved, and the company which is selected to operate the railroad, I would say to those three entities, look, we have bought this railroad track for you. You have got, let's say, five years to make it workable. You will have a user friendly group that will go up and down the track and increase the carloadings, and we have had tales of experience in other states. When that happened, the loadings increased dramatically. But I would say to those people, this is a great experiment. You have got five years, or whatever number of years, to make it work. If it doesn't work in a certain length of time, then we will say it is a great experiment, but it didn't work, the state will salvage the track, recoup its money, and we all go on from there. And we say it was a great experiment, it didn't work, but it was worth the shot. Senator Moore, if you have any more questions, I would relinquish some time.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Senator Lamb, you know as I listen to what is being said, you are saying still that the state would need to come up with the up front money to make that happen. Is that what you mean, look at your druthers, correct, Senator Lamb?

SENATOR LAMB: I have just been warned not to say my druthers