

think people are paying attention. (Gavel.) Thank you. The new paragraph number (3) inserted right prior to line 21, on page 4 of the bill, would say, "Judicial nominating commissions nominating appeals court judges authorized by this act shall be subject to Sections 84-1408 to 84-1414. The existing paragraphs (3) and (4) shall be renumbered." Now Section 84-1408 and 84-1414 are the open meetings laws. And the reason I have introduced this amendment is because it is very specific to this bill. It talks only about the court of appeals judicial nominating commissions. And, if you will recall, an amendment that I introduced earlier on this bill was not ruled germane and I would like to have this one ruled germane as it applies specifically to this bill. The reason I raise this issue, ladies and gentlemen, is that I still have concerns about the judicial nominating process and the fact that it isn't as fair and open as I think it could be. And I have had some discussions with the...with a representative from the Bar Association and with a representative from the courts and although I understand their point of view and even think that perhaps they have some justification in their point of view, I still think that maybe there is a position on this issue that could benefit both openness and the need for confidentiality and picking of the best candidate. This amendment comes actually from Senator Haberman who first introduced it and then withdrew it but it's based on his bill, LB 213, which would have essentially done the same thing although there were a few other things in that bill that were included. There were nine people at the hearing that testified in favor of LB 213. There were only two that were there in opposition and that was a representative of the Bar Association and a representative...or, rather, the Chief Justice. I guess I...I guess I would like to have us talk about this issue and even though we're on Select File and even though I think this issue may not have a chance of being attached today, I think it's an important one and if we don't discuss it now, I would respectfully tell you that we will discuss it again next year because I will come back with a more inclusive bill next year. And, with that, I would just move this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. I will now recognize Senator Abboud, followed by Senator Crosby. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Madam President, I would challenge the germaneness of this amendment. I don't feel that...the open