

Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen, my amendment basically deals with an amendment that we adopted on General File, AMS105, that was a 137-page amendment, but specifically my amendment which is being passed out, both the amendment and on the backside the explanation of what the amendment does. On page 30, in Section 20, it references to the formation of a comprehensive strategic plan that the commission shall conduct in the fiscal year '91-92, but we have said, in Section 20, that first priority in allocating the resources, the completion of the statewide plan, and it goes on and basically says that it is not necessary for them to consider certain items and it lists subdivision 4, (a), (b), (c)...(a), (b), (d), (g) and (k), and those are specifically that the commission need not study the issue of credit transfers, admission standards, tuition fees, institutional peer groups and lastly financial aid strategy. What my amendment says is if there are adequate or sufficient data available to the commission to review, that they can at least take those items into consideration, specifically the issue of financial aid strategy. There has been a lot of work done on looking at financial aid to students and it seems to me that the commission ought to take a serious look in their strategic strategy to look at that aspect since the work has already been done. Obviously, the intent behind this Section 20 was if we've got limited resources, let's not reinvent the wheel, let's not go off on a tangent and study a lot of things that don't need to be studied in this first year. But what I'm saying is if there is sufficient and adequate data available in these certain areas, all five of them, then the commission ought to take a serious look at including them in the strategic plan or study. That's all the amendment does. It does not mandate that they do it but simply asks that they shall be able to or they may consider some of those items. And I think the information is available and I think it should be considered.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion on the amendment by Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, let me try to add a little bit of background to Senator Johnson's amendment here. One of the key things that this commission will