

the chairperson might be, and I just feel like at this particular point, I am going to go with what the committee has chosen to send to the floor, and would hope that the body would reject the Dierks amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Dierks, yours is the only light on, do you want this to be your closing, or would you like to...okay.

SENATOR DIERKS: That will be fine, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I guess I would like to ask Senator Johnson a question, if he would, please.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson, would you respond please?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Johnson, what harm, I guess I would like to ask you, would the amendment do? How would it hurt the bill as you have brought it to the floor?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, I don't know if it would hurt the bill, Senator. It would displace the committee that is in place at the moment, and even though there are some internal strife there, we are hoping that with the new appointments that Governor Nelson will make, the new appointment that the NRD will make, that might cause some of the concerns to be alleviated. Beyond that, as I said, Senator, all I am interested in, and the reason I introduced LB 827 to start with was that I wanted the monitoring committee to work. And if they don't work, you know, we may give them some direction here and give them some money, and if they squander the money and they don't do anything, then I don't know what more we can do. But as I said, I just want to make sure the committee works, Senator.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I have that same concern, and it hasn't, you know. There has been no way that committee has worked and it wasn't a lack of funds to make it not work, although that has been a problem just lately. But the reason that committee hasn't worked, there has been such disharmony out there and I went to one of their meetings and actually was a monitor, kind of monitored one of their meetings for them, facilitator, I guess you'd call it, and we got along pretty well, as long as you let people visit about things. But when there was any suppression of people's ability to ask questions or to talk, people became very irate, and I sympathize with that. I think