

information we had, that the bill, itself, was not something that we were interested in in trying to convey to this body to have a vote on, but rather the amendment, and, in fact, I have had a situation that has occurred in Hastings already, since this short length of time, and the idea that we must place in statute, as the committee amendments would do, the fact that a veteran is a veteran if he has been involved in the Persian Gulf War because, for instance, I've had the example of where a young man came to our Veterans Officer and asked him for emergency assistance. While he was gone, his wife left him and left the three children, and he came home, and he is trying, he is struggling now and he had a shortfall in funding and couldn't get any help, and was told because as a veteran he has not been designated as a veteran, who is eligible for benefits, and so it is important that we do, though, then do this, I believe, because those people that have been there will get some recognition and some status, as a result of it. So I ask for the members of the body to favor the amendment that the committee has put out. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Smith. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Conway?

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Smith, for identifying the fact that this is already needed. We have individuals already who ought to be eligible to access some of the programs that we have designed for returning veterans, and by designating this particular date officially in the Nebraska statutes, as it has already been now officially designated in the federal level, being August 2nd, that would make these individuals eligible for these particular areas of need. So it is extremely important that we pass this this year, or else we have a full year or more gap that these individuals who have served will not be recognized for those benefits. And so I asked Speaker Baack to special order 720 and then use it as a vehicle for this particular issue. So with that, I hope the body will support the committee amendments, which, in essence, now is the bill, which is simply identifying what dates that Nebraskans serving in Desert Storm will be identified as foreign war veterans. So with that, I hope that the body will support this committee amendment, and then advance LB 720 as the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. We will now vote on the motion to adopt the committee amendments. All those in