

time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. The next speaker is Senator Moore. Senator Crosby, on the amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, yes, I'm going to support this amendment. From the very beginning I've had a lot of apprehensions about this bill and it really concerns me when you mention taking that much money out of the reserve because there were some people who were concerned, shall I say, when the budget bill came up and we had to take money from the reserve with the agreement that it will go back within the required period of time that's in the statute concerning the reserve. At this stage of our budgetary requirements and the projections as to money that's going to come in, I am apprehensive, as I say, about Nebraska taking on a railroad and that's what we're doing. We're setting up the council and two things...the two things that concern me today is the memorandum from the Governor speaking of the negotiations that have been going on and then the letter from Chicago Northwestern which sounds as though...is Senator Wickersham around? It has his initials on it. Well, at any rate, it sounds as though that they reached an impasse and that they're not going to be able to negotiate, at least not right now. The thing that concerns me about that is that they are negotiating something the Legislature hasn't authorized yet but they want us to enable it so they can go ahead and, I guess, in retrospect then they will be authorized to do what they're doing. I just have real doubts about this bill and I'm just really sorry, Senator Lamb, I think I said at the beginning that I don't think it's a good bill, I don't think it's a good idea for us to get into the railroad business. And it compares to some other things that we have done and I say, we, I wasn't in the Legislature when some things were done but we do things here and we obligate the state to...for things that later on we say, well, no, we didn't really mean that and the state isn't going to pay it and I really...this particular thing I just don't see how we're ever going to come up with the money for it and I...I will vote for the amendment. But when it comes to the bill, I know that the Highway Department has a division that deals with abandoned railroads and so on but I still think we're getting into trouble by buying this railroad, Senator Lamb, and if you can come up with some reasons for me to vote for it, why I would appreciate it but I will support this amendment. Thank you.