

indicates that we anticipate that they would either pay back or begin paying back in five years. But those are discuss...those are decisions for the railway council to make. I don't think it's inappropriate for the State of Nebraska to make a \$5 million investment for a \$110 million return, particularly when that investment is fully secured and, in fact, it's about 150 percent secured. I think if you all went home to your banker and you tried to get that kind of a loan, I think you would probably be granted it. But, in this instance, the \$110 million isn't going to accrue to a private party so they really can't go and ask for that kind of a loan. In this case, the \$110 million accrues to the State of Nebraska and its political subdivisions. It is more than worth the investment and I'm afraid that if we do as Senator Beutler proposes, impose an additional interest charge, was, in effect, an interest charge on the deal, we're, in effect, telling them that we're unwilling to participate in these kinds of deals, we're not interested in economic development, we're not interested in encouraging people to go out and take some risk. We encourage the political subdivisions to have people do that through LB 840. We have encouraged it in the State of Nebraska through LB 775 and other devices. It simply is beyond me why it would be inappropriate in this instance to have the same kind of incentives extended, particularly when we can see such a tremendous pay-out over a 25-year period.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Beutler, on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, while we're on this amendment, there are other things that I wanted to at least get a statement of intent on the part of the introducers from the introducers with regard to other aspects of the bill, including this particular amendment. But one of the things that they have sought to do is to distance the council from the State of...from the State of Nebraska and Senator Kristensen led you to some very interesting discussion on that particular subject and I hope you were alert to that. Another aspect of that has to do with the public meetings law and I assume, looking at the public meetings law, it would appear that this council that's being created is under the public meetings law but I could also see an interpretation that would say that they are not. And I guess I would ask Senator...is Senator Lamb or Senator Wickersham the principal introducer? I'm not quite sure which. Perhaps both of you. Is it your...I assume it's