

testified to, \$12 million that the committee was what they were looking at for restoration. We've backed away from that saying now we'll just buy it and we'll worry about the restoration, let the private individuals restore it. I don't think the local political subdivisions can sink the money in to do that, legally. But I think the shippers can do that and if they other people that can do it, they probably can. But ultimately what's going to happen here, at least what I think is going to happen in the future, is we're going to have...we're going to have to make the unpopular decision as a state and say, look, this just isn't going to make it, we're not going to put any more money into it, we, as a state are going to come in and say, couldn't make it work, let's scrap it. And then all the political power is going to come down here to the Legislature and say, you can't do this to a railroad, you helped us. You've done everything you can, we've got one more plan. And I guess that's what really makes me uneasy about this. But the purpose is good. The purpose to save the rail line is fine, it's that uneasy feeling...

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...that in five to seven years we're going to be back sinking a lot of General Fund money in to protect our investment that we ultimately are going to make.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam Chair, and members, I would just like to respond to Senator Kristensen's comment about the problems down the road. You know, I don't think that's going to happen and I have a concrete example of when it did not happen and that has to do with the bus line along Highway 20 that you people helped keep alive for at least two or three years. We put some money in that thing. We had a marketing plan that tried to increase the ridership and usage of that line. And there was...I believe there was \$150,000 that was appropriated to try to save that bus line. That is an experiment that did not work, Senator Kristensen, and as of June 1, 1991, that bus is out of business. It's out of business. So that's a comparable situation. What I'm saying to you, it's worth the chance. It's worth the chance. I think it will work. I think if you have a user friendly group on operating that line that