

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...by any of these railroads in Nebraska. Then I want them to tell me that when that contingency arises, and the people who formerly were served by that piece that is to be abandoned, are they going to stand on the floor and support the state purchasing that also? And even if they stand on the floor and ask for it, how many of you are going to vote to do it? You all are acting now on the basis of friendship and sympathy. If it's a principle that is the basis for a policy, the policy should be across the board for anybody who is similarly situated, and you all think Nebraska's coffers are bottomless and there is enough money to purchase every potentially abandoned piece of rail line in this state that is going to happen.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I want to listen to what they say in response to that. And you ought to hold them to the fire and make them respond, you can't make them, but encourage them to respond to it.

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

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just very briefly, the situation is not changed from what I said before. There may be negotiations, if this bill is passed and the funding is in there. There will not be any negotiations if that does not happen, that's as simple as it is. And I would relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Wickersham.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Members of the body, I'm somewhat confused, I guess, by the continuing arguments of Senator Chambers that we have no potential in this bill for serving the best interests of the state, and in fact not only of the constituents in my district, and Senator Lamb's district, Senator Dierks' district, Senator Peterson's district, but also the interests of the people who reside in his district. Now, we are going to be able to serve the interests of the state, not only for my constituents, as I've noted, but also for Senator Chambers' constituents, if we simply look upon this legislation in a manner, which I think is entirely appropriate, and that is as economic development. We have been concerned