

SENATOR HALL: Okay, then I won't close. Just to remind the body, I think Senator Wickersham is first to touch on the fact that we are dealing with the committee amendments here, and I know it serves as an opportunity to speak to the overall issue of why we are here, but the fact of the matter is that these are the committee amendments and we will be back on LR 1, whether the committee amendments are adopted or not. And I would appreciate it if there are concerns like the ones that Senator Wickersham pointed out that he has with regard to the committee amendments that we would at least attempt to contain comments to those because it looks like there is going to be much opportunity for discussion of this issue on a broader-based approach. But with that, I would respectfully disagree with Senator Wickersham's comments about the committee amendments and any dangerous, exceptionally dangerous precedent they may be setting. I don't know if it is pride of authorship or what, but it appears that there is much discussion, a flurry, if you will, coming out of the Governor's Office with regard to this committee amendment as it pertains to LR 1. They have brought in Professor William Lyons, who testified in front of the committee, was there for informational purposes on other occasions, and who has, I guess, through the Speaker has in the auspices of the Governor disseminated a memo to you on your desks that deals with some of the issues, some of which, frankly, through the committee amendments and through the committee itself, I don't think we would have any problem agreeing to. There are other issues that are raised in that memo, changes that they would like to see in the committee amendments, that arguably are of a substantive nature, and there were specific reasons for the committee to look at the way we have drafted the committee amendments. The Governor gets the option to call a special session and bring in his constitutional proposals. At that point in time, it becomes the property of the Legislature. We have public hearings. They are free to come and address those issues. Then the committee deals with those and we bring them in the form of amendment to the full body. We debate them. The Governor expands calls and doesn't introduce bills. That is his prerogative. I don't understand it but it is his prerogative. I guess at this point what I would tell the body is this, the committee amendments that are before us, one could argue, need some technical changes, even our staff would, and we currently are negotiating, if you will, with the Governor's Office to sit down with people who would argue changes need to be made, and that would have no problem