

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Yours, Senator, and Senator Jensen's. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wickersham, your light is next, followed by Senators Coordsen, Hall and Chambers.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I'm not even going to pretend to address specifically what Senator Chambers has in his amendment. Actually, I was a little bit disappointed that Senator Hall chose to withdraw his series of amendments and substitute one grand amendment which takes out almost everything that's offensive in Section 2. I'm not sure, Senator, that your amendment actually just strikes the words "Section 2". Maybe you leave that much of it, I'm not sure. If anything is left in Section 2, it is probably too much. But that being aside from the matter, I do wish that we would have had a chance to talk a little bit more about subsection 11 and subsection 12, because those are two of the provisions that, for once, are probably true. They say companies which undertake major expansions and relocations do so only upon evaluating the competitive strengths and weaknesses of various states. Well, I think we're being evaluated and I don't feel very good about it. What that means is that they come to you and ask you how much you will give them. And if you don't give them enough, they go to somebody else and they say, how much will you give me? That's what that says to me and that's absolutely the truth. That one I don't necessarily mind. Various states are continuing to enhance their business climate through enactment of competitive economic growth programs and initiatives. They certainly are but we don't know whether they're competitive yet. All we know is that they're granting them and that companies are locating in various states. What causes me some concern...and I hope we have a chance to talk to...talk about it when we get to LB 829, all of these things are deemed competitive when you should really just substitute the word "give", "give", "give", and we don't know when we have given too much. We have no way of knowing that. We have no way of evaluating that and it's part of what bothers me in this process. No one is saying to us whether we are giving too much. Other states have, in various instances, in fact, one was raised in the committee hearings on LB 829. The state was Colorado. They were competing for a plant for an airline company. They breathed, literally breathed a sigh of relief when the company went to another state because they had offered too much. They knew when they were all done that in the excitement, in the glory, in the wonder of having competitive initiatives, that they had offered too much. But at least they