

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the body, I rise to support Senator Avery's amendment. You know if the language in the statute is archaic then maybe we should amend the language. But you know we also have in statute the Council of State Governments, that's the only national body that is in our statutes. The National Conference of State Legislatures is not in our statutes, but the Council of State Governments is. And that was put in quite a long time ago, and indeed to make a decision not to belong to the Council of State Governments you would have to change the statutes. And Senator Elmer is right, these organizations, Council of State Governments and the National Conference of State Legislatures do charge hundreds of thousands of dollars in dues every year. Now it is important in Nebraska, in the Unicameral, that we are unique and that we remember that it is such a uniqueness that each one of us has a sharing of power. And while indeed the Executive Board has the powers concentrated in that smaller group to make decisions about the buildings and our policies and oversight, that power, it seems to me, should not be all inclusive and not everything, and that the power that is in the Intergovernmental Cooperation should not shift to the Executive Board. They have enough to do with the business of the Legislature. The Intergovernmental Committee is made up of different people and has a little different makeup and different perspectives, perhaps, and indeed have the duty, not only to have oversight of individuals' travel, but also in assigning them the various committees that those larger national groups communicate with us. And I think that's good to have a separate committee that is looking at who indeed should be made up of those national committees and not to give favors or to keep that uniqueness of the individual in the Unicameral. Now, always remember that the Executive Board is the appeal, and that appeal process I think is important for the Executive Board. They do have the last word, and so if you're not happy with the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee decision you can go to the Executive Board, and I know that some do. But I think the Executive Board has a different function, and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee is a completely separate function and should remain separate. Let's amend the language then if you think it's archaic we certainly have other archaic language...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.