

did not hear Senator Chambers' opening on this but I do feel that we ought to support this motion for several reasons. One of the reasons is this bill was killed by a matter of four votes, one less vote, of course, and it wouldn't have been killed. Last year this bill did come to the floor of the Legislature, we did not have time to act on it but it came to the floor by one vote too. I mean, it had four votes to advance to the floor. So it's an issue I think which it's probably always going to be a closely contested issue but it is an issue of, I believe, great importance and one that ought to be discussed by the full Legislature, so no matter how you may feel about the issue one way or the other, I think that you have an obligation to hear the minutes of the issue. This bill really doesn't do anything other than guarantee that people cannot be, cannot lose their job, cannot be fired on the basis of their sexual orientation and, to me, really it seems unnecessary to legislate this kind of thing, but I do know of instances where this has occurred right here in Lincoln. People have been fired, not because they told anybody that they were homosexual but because their employer found out through one means or the other or thought they found out and the people were fired. You know, to me, if they're doing their job and if they are acting in a professional manner, I don't see that this is a basis for firing. Now, unfortunately, this issue gets mixed up with a lot of other things with religion, about how you feel about homosexual activity and this really has nothing to do with the bill. This simply guarantees that people cannot be discriminated against in the workplace. So with that, with that simple explanation, I would like to ask for your support for placing this bill on General File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Jim Jones would like to announce that the following guest is visiting the Legislature today. Former Senator Howard Lamb is here from Anselmo. He is sitting under the north balcony. Senator, would you please stand and be recognized. Welcome back, Senator. Senator Abboud, your light is next.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Madam President, colleagues, I rise just by way of explanation of the committee's action. I think Senator Chambers has offered a good explanation of what the bill would provide for and the changes that would occur as a result of the passage of LB 21. The committee did vote to indefinitely postpone the bill. The bill provided for...would make an unfair labor practice to discriminate it against an individual on the