

SENATOR ABBODD: Madam President, colleagues, LB 887 is the annual claims bill that Business and Labor Committee brings to this Legislature. What we will be taking up first are the committee amendments. Now the committee amendments are made up of claims that were originally rejected by the State Claims Board and they were a part of LB 888 which was a bill that was introduced by the committee that was made up of rejections made by the State Claims Board and that bill was indefinitely postponed and the portion of that bill that the committee felt did deserve to be paid by the Legislature was made a part of these committee amendments. So by way of background that's what we're going to be talking about. The committee amendment is made up of...you have in front of you a couple of handouts that were handed to you by the committee, one is a committee statement of the bill and one provides for a statement about what's a part of the committee amendments. I'll run through the portion of the committee amendments and then after I run through the explanation of what the provision of the payment deals with as well as the amount I'll be happy to answer any questions about the committee amendment. The first one is a claim in the amount of \$2,396.79 made by Lee Ann Rasmussen. Lee Ann lived in Ord, Nebraska. In the summer of '93 her car was damaged extensively in an area around Falls City, Nebraska. The damage was caused by a large piece of asphalt that was not on the road, I guess it was like a large pothole and there was a piece of asphalt that was next to it and it flew up and damaged her automobile. The road had been heavily traveled. It was a state road and the claim was made to the State Claims Board that the state was, in effect, negligent in the maintenance of the road, did not provide adequate warning signs. The amount of the damage to her automobile was \$2,396.79. The committee, after hearing testimony, recommended payment for the repair of her automobile. The next claim is in the amount of \$691.81, John Niemoth. John is a foster parent in the area of Niobrara, Nebraska. In the September of 1992, he had a 15-year-old state ward staying with him. The state ward was out a little later than he should have been. John locked the door. John has hearing aids in both ears which he had taken out during the night and he didn't hear the state ward knocking on the door. The ward broke down the door, he was a rather large ward. John Niemoth handles a number of foster children, as well as state wards, and he usually is given the types of cases that are difficult for other people to handle. This particular ward was a rather large 15-year-old. I believe he weighed in excess of 300 pounds, a very muscular man or young man and he was a