

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is next.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Just briefly. To my good friend, Senator Hillman, Joyce, your heart has always been in economic development and always will be, and it's one of the reasons why we have made a lot of progress, not only in Nebraska, but in the state as a whole. And I want to reemphasize that I am not necessarily...I have not necessarily opposed the concept of what Pat is trying to do with the bill, though there were some technical things certainly that I have disagreements with. That's one of the reasons why the bracket motion Senator Beutler offers is the best scenario for all groups involved. It takes the \$6 million off the Select File sheet of monies that we potentially may spend, but it keeps the issue alive for next year, and it keeps the issue alive that maybe there will be dollars to be found. Maybe DED or others can reevaluate priorities and find other dollars that they can find...that they can convince the Legislature that we can do it with what we have out there. A lot of things can happen. So, Senator Hillman, I agree that the...many of us don't want the issue to go away next year, we want it to come back at some point. But right now I want to expand on one point on what Senator Wehrbein said that I agree, but I want to make sure that we're clear. When Senator Wehrbein says this will not affect the status, he is correct because the status indicates the appropriations mainline budget bill and the appropriations budget bills that follow that. And this will have no effect on that since it's not included in that. So the status will remain unchanged. What you have to look at is the bills that we are going to pass on Final, Select, and what hasn't even appeared yet is those on General File, like the crime bill. Those, if you add those up, spending, compared to what...the dollars we have actually to spend is where we're woefully short on our spending. And so as it will not affect the actual status, it does begin to provide us some rationale of when we did add monies in the front end of the ethanol bill because it made sense to do so. And when we do, one way or another, the adult crime bill, which doesn't even show on this sheet, but it will be about \$7 million over the next two years, 7.1 or something like that, it does at least give us the opportunity to say, yes, we added monies here but we made room for those dollars over there. And we need to take that responsibility, and this is one of those decisions that are tough. But it leaves the issue open for Senator Engel next year, it leaves the potential there for doing some good things