

the amendment and makes it better. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you. There's no further lights on, Senator Chambers, would you care to close? Senator Chambers waives closing. You've heard the...the question is the adoption of the Chambers amendment to the Bohlke amendment. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment to the Bohlke amendment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Senator Maurstad would move to amend with AM2400. (See page 2577 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Maurstad, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. This, of course, is the same amendment that was filed on the crime bill yesterday that was ruled germane by the Chair, that was then overruled by...the Chair was then overruled by the body, dealing with the Gun-Free School Zone. I'm not going to go through the whole situation that I did yesterday, but I just wanted to make a couple of points. Number one, I picked this issue up as a result of the Supreme Court ruling and have brought it to the body because I felt it was timely that we address it at this particular time, because I think it's an important issue. It's important that, as the amendment would do, we defend our children not only on the school grounds, but near the school grounds. Children have a hard enough time learning in a safe environment without having to worry about the threat from criminals with guns. Secondly, this amendment would get tough with criminals that carry guns near the schools; and, third, it would protect the right of Nebraskans to bear arms because it only deals with criminals, not law-abiding citizens that would have legal possession of guns. But it's also an important issue that we comply with the federal ruling relative to the issue that Senator Bohlke has brought before the body. And as a result I think, like others have done in the last couple weeks, I think it's important to address the relative importance. And as a result of the time that I'm sure that this amendment might take, and because we are, of course, under a time constraint on 658, I would respectfully ask to withdraw the