

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...represent a tremendous increase even with the Lindsay amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members, I guess, in a sense, I am following up on some of the points Senator Beutler is making, and since we are not...not going directly at the issues in the bill, I am going to talk a bit too. First off, I want to commend Senator Beutler for his comments, and for his insightfulness in looking at the bill. Similarly, I know Senator Bromm, Senator Matzke, and others have looked at this and tried to help work with the details of it. What I think is at issue here is that LB 371 has become a symbol, it's a symbol. There is a lot of substance to it as well. Obviously, it will have an impact, but in my view a very narrow impact dealing with a one-dimensional approach to the crime problem. I think we need a deeper, multidimensional attack on this issue. We need a war on crime that has a much broader sweep than this bill provides, but as a symbol back to the state, we saw what happened last week when we didn't take the action, that we...we put it off till today, and I think that was the right thing to do. There hadn't been time to fully develop the amendment, to discuss, although we haven't had much time to discuss the amendment today, still it gave people a chance to review and to have a comfort level much more than looking at something at eleven-thirty at night and trying to make a decision. But in my view, what I am worried about is that 371 has become the symbol that we've done something about crime, we have done crime when we pass LB 371. Now I know Senator Pirsch and many others have, Senator Beutler and myself, have many amendments pending to the bill because there are so many other issues that need to be addressed, so many more things that we need to be doing to fully address the issue of crime. But if it's a symbol that we've got and a symbol that we need to deal with, then so be it, we can move forward and pass LB 371 and all go back to our districts and talk about how we voted to do something about crime, and make everybody feel a little bit better about it. But in the end, I don't think we'll have really accomplished as much as we would hope and maybe as much as we will be saying we've done. Because in my view, again, we've dealt with making some of the statutes harsher, we've done some good things with good time,