

February 26, 1996 LB 124t

amendments at this time.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, because the committee amendments will become the bill, we've adopted Senator Vrtiska's amendment to the committee amendments, and what his did was to take the place of the committee amendments. So the only thing we have before us now are his amendments and they will become the bill. Whether an attempt is made to offer an amendment at this time or after this amendment is adopted really makes not too much difference because it will take the same number of votes, and I do have questions about some aspects of the bill that I would like to ask, but I will not delay at this point the adoption of the committee amendments, but I will have some questions and then I may offer an amendment or two. But some of the areas, to be quite frank with you, I don't know how to draft an amendment at this point because some of the terms that bother me would not really need a definition if we were just dealing with ordinary conversation and discussion. But since we are creating a fund and the eligibility for that fund, there are terms I would like to have defined; one of them is found in line 13 of page 1 of Senator Vrtiska's amendment. That would be "abnormal expenses of government." That term, abnormal expenses of government, anything that can be envisioned which a government is going to have to undertake could not be considered to create an abnormal expense, when we are talking about the money necessary to pay to carry out that duty or that activity. Also, in line 10 of page 2, would be the second line 10 on page 869 of the Journal, lines 10 and 11, essential business and, then, and essential services. Those things which are essential I think would be similar to saying those things which are legally required. If the services and the business that we're talking about which is to be undertaken that will allow qualification for assistance under this bill, if those things are narrower in scope than the legal duties imposed on counties, cities and villages, that ought to be spelled out. On the other hand, if essential services and essential business really represent nothing more than stating with different words what the law requires cities, counties and villages to do, the words are surplusage, but they could stay there anyway to indicate that if a county, city or village undertakes something on a voluntary basis which is not mandated by law, that which is voluntarily assumed, no matter