

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, I was just wanting a gavel here because I was having difficulty hearing what I was saying. The.... Never mind, I'll turn my light on later.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Schimek. Waives off. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the body. I was just explaining to our fearless leader, Senator Chambers, that we are with him on this amendment. I rise in support of the Withem (sic) amendment to strike the \$14,500 from the Constitutional Revision Commission. This has been something I voted against since its inception in the Government Committee, and I also voted against expanding the committee this year. We had an interesting discussion in committee this year on the expansion of that. And I think that's probably a time maybe to have, if nothing else, just procedurally done something about the appropriations bill, instead of trying to bring it...or the appropriation for that commission, instead of trying to bring it in here through the appropriations bill. But that's not really...it's not a policy decision that I'm against, it's the actual Constitutional Revision Commission. If we are asking other government entities to do away with vital services, really we are, we're imposing or we're going down the road to impose some pretty tough lids, levy limits at some point, we are asking all of these other government entities to do away with those areas of government that they have lower priorities for, and yet we aren't asking to do that to ourselves. That, all along, has been something that I am somewhat embarrassed about, although it's been explained to me that the reasons that we're doing that is to maintain flexibility up here at the state level. But I have still all along said that we need to also prioritize our money. And if we're going to do this in all sincerity, I don't think it's vital that at this time the state of Nebraska has a Constitutional Revision Commission. I think if we're asking other government entities to decide what is vital and what services they absolutely can't do without, and then strike everything else, then why are we taking their tax dollars to fund a Constitutional Revision Commission? If these individuals are that concerned about revising the Constitution of the state of Nebraska, then let them do it, go ahead and come to us with their suggestions, but pay for it with their own money, as far as I'm concerned, because I'm definitely not one first that thinks the constitution needs to be looked over and some