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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, seldom will you hear me stand on the floor and say this could be a "daaannggerous" (phonetic) bill, but Senator Beutler's amendment is really going to show us what it is that we're looking at. If the philosophy of the bill is good, then the opportunity to take advantage of the powers being created and granted should be extended to every Standing Committee. The Government Committee, although under the language of this proposal may have jurisdiction over subject areas covered by different Standing Committees, but, with all due respect to the members on the Government Committee, the Judiciary Committee and every other Standing Committee, there is no prerequisite requirement that a person be knowledgeable about the subjects to be covered by that committee. Some people wind up on committees by default and would choose to be some place else, so there is no particular expertise on the Government Committee that entitles or justifies that committee in being granted this exclusive power. On the other hand, if we grant the power to every committee, then each committee can be like a roving commission with very little in the way of limitation. If the Legislature is going to adopt the position that we are going to engage in far more detailed oversight, then every Standing Committee should have this authority. We would have to be wary of breaching the line based on separation of powers. There are certain things we could not demand from and of the judiciary, certain things we cannot demand of and from the executive department. For better or for worse, Nebraska has a three-headed government and the constitution says that no person or collection of persons being a part of one branch can exercise the powers of any other branch unless specifically given that power under the constitution. So these committees, if all of them are to be granted this power, or the Government Committee, if the power is to be limited to that committee, will have to be very careful of what steps it takes and how far it attempts to move into the area constituting the domain of the judiciary and the executive branch. I'm going to support Senator Beutler's amendment. I will tell you why, Mr. Speaker, because I can see how exciting this is and everybody's eyes are just glittering with anticipation and expectation. Some almost fell out of