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dealing with binding...or bonding. Part four will be Section 11. Part five will be Section 12, deals with the sunset provisions. So part five will be Section 12. Part six will be Sections 13 through 22, which is the Local Civic, Cultural and Convention Center Financing Act. So part six of the divided question will be Sections 13 through 22. The intent is to take them up in numerical order. So to open on part one of the divided committee amendments, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, you've had an opening on the amendment engrossed. But just to help focus your attention on the issue that is before you now, which is Sections 1 and 2 of the committee amendments. Section 2...or Section 1 names the act the Convention Center Facility Financing Act, and Section 2 states the intent for enactment. The intent, of course, is to find a way to assist, or "incent", or to allow to happen a kind of economic activity that is deemed or would be deemed, if the bill...if the amendment is adopted, to be in the best interest of the state. In the best interest of the state for a rather narrow perspective, not necessarily in the best interest of the state because it enriches us culturally, not necessarily in the best interest of the state because it enriches us in a recreational sense, but because it enriches us in the very best sense of the word enrichment, it makes money. And it makes money not only perhaps for the community in which it is located, but it makes money for the state. And it is that inducement to make money for mutual benefit that is the intent of the piece of legislation and the amendment, and all of the phrasing in Section 2 is intended to set out in a much more wordy fashion that intent to enrich us by making money.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Hilgert on part one of the divided committee amendments.

SENATOR HILGERT: I'm going to speak a little bit more broadly than just the first part. The bill was brought to us last year regarding the civic audi...or the convention center arena plan, and that included a half cent sales tax increase. I found that objectionable. I don't think we ought to raise taxes in order...the state ought to raise taxes in order to build this. And I resisted it. I believe sales tax is quite regressive, and it adversely affects my district, therefore I did not support