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LB 44

information will ever hurt any of us with respect to this subject and so I would...I would stand by...by what I agreed to, and that is to support this amendment and to advance the bill to Final Reading with the commitment that it will stay there until we take further action after the interim. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on the amendment to LB 44.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I listened very carefully to what Senator Matzke said, and I'm tempted to engage in a discussion or debate, but this is not the time for that. If this bill is advanced to Final Reading it will be that spur needed to law enforcement persons to show them that the Legislature is serious about this; that action is going to be taken and any of them who have an interest in dealing with this issue will have to do so during the interim. It is like that point in the marriage ceremony where they say, or they used to say, speak now or forever hold your piece. That will be the opportunity for them to speak. I hope you will adopt the amendment, advance the bill. We will leave it on Final Reading but, by leaving it there, law enforcement will not get the impression that the Legislature is not serious and doesn't intend to do anything. On the contrary, it will show them that the Legislature is indeed very serious about it. So I hope that you will advance this, adopt the amendment and advance the bill. But there is one point I want to correct with reference to something Senator Matzke said. This money we're talking about is not federal funds. This is not money appropriated by Congress. These seizures are not made by federal agents. These are arrests made by state law enforcement people--State Patrol, county sheriffs, local police. All that the federal government has done to get involved is to say that you can funnel those proceeds through my laundry and, by doing so, we hope to change the nature and character of those funds. Once that money comes back to these law enforcement agencies, the state of Nebraska has the authority, under the constitution, to deal with that money. It would be different if Congress created a program and said grants will be given to the states provided the money in those grants is used for specific purposes, but the federal government is not entitled through a regulation of the kind that Senator Matzke obviously is referring to, to supplant what