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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Bourne, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I yield my time to Senator Beutler.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bourne, thank you. I just wanted to touch on one last area, so at least the committee's thinking can be understood on this. Why a combination of Ag and Natural Resources? Well, first of all, as has been discussed to a certain extent, it is the workload of Ag that is the obvious example of an underworked committee. If you look at the statistics in the last 5 years, some of those years Ag has had 8 bills for the whole year, 11 bills, 11 bills in another year, all these committees fluctuate, but we're fluctuating at a very, very low level. So, first of all, just in the number of bills being produced by the Ag Committee and the Natural Resources Committee, that's the number one reason why that was chosen. The Natural Resources Committee, for a three-day committee, also has a relatively light workload. So it works in terms of number of bills. Now then when you look at, well, which committees in the Legislature are most related to one another, ask yourself. If you're looking at something from the point of view of pure agriculture, what other committee, other than Agriculture, in the whole Legislature, deals with subjects most closely related to agriculture? It's Natural Resources, there's no doubt about it. They deal with all the water issues, most of which affect agriculture. They deal with public power issues, which is the rural electrics and issues relating to the countryside. I mean there is just no doubt about it, those are the two most similar committees. So, that...that fits together in that way. I think that you will find, if you look at it, no other combination that can work. And probably what's happening to us in terms of the way interest and issues have developed in our Legislature is what's been happening in the other states. And you heard Senator Schrock recite all those different other farm states that have either Ag and Natural Resources together, or Ag and some other stranger combinations together. But an awful lot of them have combined Ag with something else, because that's the sensible thing to do and because it in no way deletes the power