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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Beutler, your light is on.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Vrtiska, just a more serious question but also relating to the Federal Express one.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Federal Express claims they didn't receive the check. Presbyterian Medical Center alleges they never received the check. Walbaum not cashed or reissued, that doesn't say whether he claims he never received it or not. University of Nebraska Medical Center claims, well, never cashed or reissued, doesn't say whether they are claiming not to have received it or not, but all four of these \$34,000, \$96,000, \$24,000, \$40,000, I've never seen that pattern in a claims bill before where these large amounts of money are claimed not to have been delivered by check. Is there...is there anything of significance to that pattern?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Beutler, you bring up a very good question and one that I had some concerns about, too; but in talking with people on the Claims Board, they indicated this is the message that was brought to them. The only thing that we could be assured of, that those bills were never paid. In other words, it's not a case of a double pay and, of course, that was our concern as a...as a committee, and I'm sure it was a concern of the Claims Board that they were not, in fact, paying these bills twice. Why they weren't paid or why the checks weren't cashed, I don't have an idea. We were never given a definite answer as to why these bills...why these checks were either lost or were not cashed. It seemed rather strange to me and I guess it's something we probably should take a look into deeper to find out why this is happening because it seemed rather unusual that those large a checks would, in fact, not be taken care of so that we wouldn't have to go through this process of reissuing these checks. And I agree with you totally, I think it's something that probably ought to be looked into. With that, that's about all I can tell you because that was the assurance that we were given, that's the assurance that we were given that