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was not with us when this bill was first brought up, so I will yield the remainder of my time to Senator Wickersham.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham, on the committee amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I am sorry I missed the opening debate here. As Senator Matzke indicates, we did have a little storm in the west and, interestingly enough, things were kind of okay in Harrison but things weren't very good in Denver, so it shows how the world is connected. There are extensive committee amendments to LB 936. I say extensive in the aspect that the committee amendments are a white copy; that means it's a rewrite of the bill. There are a variety of both substantive and technical changes, and as much as anything the white copy was for the comprehensiveness of the effort and the coherent presentation of the ideas that are contained in the bill. And I'm sure that Senator Coordsen, in the previous discussion, outlined and described to you the various changes, both the technical and the substantive changes in the bill, or in the proposed committee amendment. I would call to your attention again a couple of those that you will see in the committee statement, particularly the one noted as item number 5 in the committee statement. It is a change to the wage qualification standard that is being proposed to you. That was the subject of a considerable amount of discussion among the members of the Revenue Committee, wanting to find a way to have the appropriate levels and mechanisms for determining the base for the calculation of 125 percent of wage or 100 percent of annual wage in the area, and we divided the state into seven regions. The effort was to make sure that the wages that were paid weren't based...weren't affected by part-time salaries in a given county. We saw some evidence that some counties had very low average wages. We attributed that to a large amount of part-time employment. The regional calculations were a way to avoid that problem, and the real nub of the issue is that if somebody is going to take advantage of this, they ought really to pay a decent wage. The other significant, what I would characterize as a truly significant provision in the committee amendments is the sunset that you would see as item 14 in the committee statement. If the committee amendments are adopted, the program would sunset on July 1st of 2004. And as you