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awards. And then the committee amendment makes a further suggestion, which I will be happy to explain under the committee amendment. So with that, Mr. President, I will return my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. As stated, there are committee amendments offered by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Chairperson... (cough). Excuse me. Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on those amendments. (AM0472, Legislative Journal page 618.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I think we're having the same problem this morning, Mr. President. (Laugh) The committee amendment actually provides that an employee suggestion begins when the employee contacts the director of personnel, or the director's designated representative, with a qualifying suggestion. And this was the subject of some discussion in the committee. But we felt that the employee should get credit when suggestions are made. And we should know exactly when that employee made those suggestions, to whom they were made, the exact time of day, and a brief description of that suggestion to the director. And that way, there would be no confusion about whether it was the employee's idea, or another employee's idea, or an agency idea that is later implemented. We thought that there should be some exact records kept. They wouldn't be burdensome. They would be simple. But we would be able to have a paper trail, if you will, of when this employee made that suggestion. And I think that both of these...both the bill and the amendment are important in honoring our commitments to state employees who do come up with ideas that are unique, that are cost-saving for the state, that are creative. And we ought to have some rules in place that ensure that we in fact do do that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments to LB 307. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback. Senator Schimek, just a couple of questions if I might. And I'm focusing on the language that indicates, on...in the committee amendment,