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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 98

whether or not we need more fact-finding. Because if this letter from Hergert to our Executive Committee is the sum total of what they're going to tell us then we don't need this debate. We need to get a chance to get into some room between now and tomorrow morning and draft a resolution of censure and pass it tomorrow before we leave. We could do that in a heartbeat. If we're not going to learn anything more than this, and that is a legal counsel who will not testify, will not come, Hergert won't be there, hires a lobbyist, if this is the best we've got then we know enough and we can censure now, because we're only going to get headlines, newspapers, the Accountability and Disclosure, and we're not going to get any more information. If, on the other hand, we're going to do more than this then we're going to have to have a fact-finding process. And I got to say, one of the things we don't exactly in LR 98 is a clear...you know, I'd like to have that prospect figured out, because I think there are two paths. Either we decide we're going to engage in a significant fact-finding process at which...at the end of which we either go with censure or we go with impeachment, if that's a possibility and the body is persuaded, on the facts that we learn. Or, if we're not going to have any more facts, my guess is this body could fashion a censure resolution which, if we had to vote on the limited information we have, we would pass, and we could do that tomorrow. We could draft it tonight and do it tomorrow. The question is, what kind of an information gathering process do we want to have and where should it lead to? And, by the way, I would subtract the word "impeachment." On that I would agree with Senator Foley. I don't think we need to name it as one of our options. I think we could say, as Senator Erdman and Senator Bourne have essentially (inaudible). That is our options, unnamed. Because, to me, the dividing task is whether or not we're going to do anything more for information gathering and learning and decision making, in which case we need to get to what that's going to be like, and then I think all we have to say is, and then, whatever we learn, we're going to exercise our options after we learn. Or we're going to say, you know, given the response that we've gotten (laugh), it's not going to get any better than this. There's going to be a lobbyist, there's going to be a...there's going to be some political forces out there, and there's going to be a lawyer, in which case we don't need to do anything more; we can do what is