

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a resolution that was offered by the Revenue Committee. It is found on page 1657 of the Journal, Mr. President. (LR 384.)

PRESIDENT: Page 1657.

CLERK: Senator, you want to take up your amendment now?

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes. Let me quickly explain the resolution and explain the amendment. The resolution is found on page 1657 of the Journal. It is a resolution introduced to the Legislature by the Revenue Committee. And I would like to do this fairly quickly so I can go back down and hear the homestead testimony. The resolution is one that calls for a study of taxation in Nebraska, calls for a study of financing of local government in Nebraska, calls for a study of government structure in Nebraska. The resolution contemplates the Executive Board appointment of seven legislators to oversee the study. The resolution contemplates the retention of independent contracting firm to undertake the study. The resolution contemplates a study period of two years. The resolution contemplates an overall appropriation, during the next two years, of 350,000 to effect the study. The last time the Legislature commissioned a study of this magnitude was in 1961. That study led ultimately to the McClellan Report which became one of the basic documents for the state sales tax and the state income tax system of 1966. It's been 22 years since we...23 years since the state has undertaken such a study. It is a very significant undertaking. That is why I bring it to you. I have visited with Governor Kerrey about the resolution. The Governor is suggesting that we treat this resolution as we treated the Initiative 300 Task Force, which is...he is very supportive of what we are doing, to allow the Executive Board to appoint seven legislators to, in effect, to head up the...provide direction for the study, but also to give the Governor the ability to appoint seven private persons to also be involved with the overall oversight committee affecting the study. I have offered an amendment to allow those gubernatorial appointments. Governor Kerrey believes that the addition of seven independent persons to this state finance study will lend additional validity and credibility to the ultimate work product. He could well be right. So I have an amendment to the resolution to do as the Governor has suggested. At this time I would offer the amendment.