

the claims involve agency write-offs. These are amounts determined by the agency to be uncollectibles and the agencies seek approval to remove them from the books. The State Claims Board has recommended that the following write-offs take place--the Commission for the Hearing Impaired, \$941.35; Nebraska Supreme Court, \$174.03; Department of Public Institutions, \$460,795; Nebraska Veterans Home, \$25,000; Nebraska Veterans Home Annex, around 867; Norfolk Veterans Home, 400; Department of Administrative Services Control Central Data Processing, 18,000; Game and Parks Commission, \$2,011; another claim by the Game and Parks for 23,000; Department of Health, 366; Military Department, 13,693; totalling \$546,215.23. I'll be happy to answer any questions about any of these claims. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Have an amendment to the bill.

CLERK: Senator Withem would move to amend, Mr. President, AM3989. (See pages 1401 and 1473 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. This is the type of amendment that I, if I would give a very brief explanation of it on a sleepy morning, would probably just roll on because I don't know if there's any opposition to it. But I feel uncomfortable doing that. So what I'm going to do is talk a little bit about the facts here, withdraw the amendment and give notice that if we aren't able to get a resolution on this issue between now and Select File, that we will in fact be promoting this as an amendment on the claims bill. The reason I'm uncomfortable with it, this is an incident that normally would go through the claim process. It involves an \$800 dispute within the Court Administrator's Office regarding vacation pay for a court reporter. And typically it would be one if it were not resolved within the Court Administrators Office, it would be okay to bring it as a claim, and it would have gone through the public hearing process. The incident arose too late to go through the normal process. So again I'm making you aware of it. But it's a woman by the name of Gretchen Thomas, who was a court reporter, working in the Sarpy County separate Juvenile Court Office, who...17-year employee of the state, doesn't take...most years gives back part of her vacation time, doesn't