

just a couple of things first and then I would give you some time. This is a difficult issue for me personally because the Hansens are personal friends and have been for many years and Kate Hansen was in my office this morning to try to bring her side of the story to me. Now I was not on the floor the other day when this happened and I did not hear the discussion on the floor, but I knew in advance that there would be an amendment offered to delete that payment and, subsequently, I have had both some discussions or I have had some discussions with both sides and I guess I really...I really don't, based on what I know now, don't think I can support the Dierks' amendment. Now I believe that perhaps there is a window of time there in which Mrs. Hansen does have an issue, then that would be from February, I think, when she first asked to have her dues relinquished, to June of that year. This would have been in '91. And I don't even know the legal issues involved here. She may not have recourse. I don't know. I guess the confusing part to me or the part that is difficult for me, I don't know labor law and I don't know the union rules and I don't know their policies and procedures and I don't know all the facts of this case, even though we have heard quite a bit so far, both in committee and off the floor, so I don't know if my instincts are right here, but I don't think I could support the Dierks' amendment as is. And, you know, we may have some further discussion here, I may change my mind, but that's where I am right now. And, Senator Beutler, if you would like the rest of my time I would be happy to give it to you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I thank you, but for the moment I think I'll just listen to what other people have to say and try to glean from that a better understanding of what this is all about.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Beutler, I guess I would like to add one clarification and then I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Dierks. One of the things I forgot to mention is that, and I wanted to emphasize, is the indication that Senator Preister gave that prior to Mrs. Hansen becoming a member of the union, it did not say on the membership card that you had to wait until June to withdraw your membership. That is now printed on union cards and it's very clear. I'm not sure it was real clear to her when she became a union member. It should have been clear subsequently, but that's why I'm basing my thoughts on that, that window of time. Perhaps she might have a