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LB 387

SENATOR WILL: And that would be the first division?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, that would be it.

SENATOR WILL: Okay. We are on the first division, that is the material on lines 1-14 of AM2358. Senator Kristensen, your light is next.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Chambers, you are recognized to open on the first division. Excuse me, Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and members...members of the Legislature, Senator Tyson is being mentored. When we divide the question, we, in effect, create two amendments, so this is a new amendment, and the second division will be a new amendment. So I want the opportunity to explain this new amendment which is before us, in effect, that's what it is. My goal, as I stated in the beginning, was to hound and worry these budget bills because of an ongoing problem with the university as far as recruitment and retention of certain categories of persons. I had pointed out that this has been going on for a number of years. I gave concrete examples of various gatherings where public statements were made by public officials, those at the university, where promises were made, the most recent being the attendance at a committee hearing of the Education Committee where the committee members were told legislation is not necessary because the university is going to do the right thing, and that would have been fine. Then came the selection of a person to be offered the executive directorship of the Nebr...UNL or the University of Nebraska Alumni Association. That showed me that all of the talk about making a new departure and doing better was so much claptrap because they passed over an African-American and a female, both of whom have connection to the university. So to me, it was a replay of what all of these different groups and individuals have gone through in trying to get the university to do the right thing. I've pointed out that in December of last year, President L. Dennis Smith had put together a committee or a commission to look into this problem. The difficulty that I had with that was not his