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FLOOR DEBATE

February 19, 2002 LB 185

have nothing further pending on the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Don Pederson, if you'd like to give us just a short update on the bill on where we're at with LB 185.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, as it...as was mentioned by the Clerk now, this will be the fourth day that we've been discussing this matter and originally I thought this was a very simple matter, but this would not be the first time that I'd approach this body with what I thought was a simple matter and it carries on. And this is really a very simple bill. It requires two persons a railroad crew on all freight trains moving between terminals in Nebraska until such time as the federal government issues a regulation or an order prescribing that one-person crews are determined safe. There's nothing more, nothing less. Currently, we operate with a two-person crew, and this bill is simply to prohibit the reduction of the size of that crew until somebody has shown that it's...that it's safe to do so. On Thursday, the body accepted...adopted the amendment, AM2759, which addressed some of the changes that Senator Brashear had with the bill on Wednesday. The Class I railroad language was deleted. An additional change inserted the language that until such time as the Secretary of Transportation, through the FRA, issues an order that changes the requirement for a two-person crew, versus the language issued from Congress, same substantive language, simply reworded, so I also address clarifying language in the severability clause. Although this section is not really necessary, it appeared to make everyone more at ease. Senator Baker then offered a floor amendment, FA849, which placed the Class I railroad language back in the bill. This was the exact language that I had offered in...to the body in the first amendment that was adopt...that it was now adopted in FA849. Senator Erdman then offered FA850, which changed the language from over-the-road to between terminals and included the definition of terminals as I had originally introduced the green copy of the bill. I had simply changed that language because of a letter that we had received from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe President stating that over-the-road historically meant movement between terminals. Once again, no substantive change,