SPEAKER MARVEL: Any other discussion? All those in favor of adoption of the committee amendment to LB 324 vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The committee amendment is adopted. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I move the advancement of LB 324. This is a bill that would change the Nebraska Constitution and one of the reasons that I introduced it is because what this bill says, that whenever the Legislature mandates or requires local governments to put in a new program or a new service, why then the state shall be responsible to pay for these and I guess the reason that I introduced it is because several years ago we passed a lid bill. In this lid bill we say that these local governments cannot raise their budget over 7% from the previous year. So in other words, it looks like we are talking out of both sides of our mouth. We are saying, local governments go ahead and put in new programs but you cannot exceed the 7%. And so in the past few years we have been introducing new bills that would--the local governments would have to implement new programs. I think we have several bills before us this session which would do this and one of these is Senator Chambers' raising the pay of county sheriffs and, of course, maybe he has a way figured out how these county governments are going to pay for this. I think it is only fair for the state to pay for these programs if we mandate them. The 7% will barely take care of the normal increases like wages, repairs and other expenses and then if they have to implement these other programs, well certainly it is going to cause quite a hardship on this local government, and like I said before, we in the Legislature sometimes contradict ourselves. So I ask you here today, where is this money coming from, and so this is why I propose this constitutional amendment to bring it before the people and see what citizens in the State of Nebraska want to do about this. I strongly urge you to support this proposal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell to speak on the...the motion is to advance the bill. There are five lights on so far. Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose the constitutional proposal of my good friend, Senator Hefner. I would like to ask Senator