

you have any additional comments before we vote to advance the bill?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the amendment is the bill. I believe it has been adequately explained and as I said earlier if anyone disagrees with my belief, my concern and my interpretations of the bill and the intent that I have placed upon it then I wish they would express themselves at this time. I think that the way that the amendment was adopted with a strong support, I believe the Legislature agrees with me, I move the bill be advanced.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor of that motion vote aye. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'd like to explain why I almost voted against those amendments. I think it is important to keep in mind one thing when we talk about legislation like this. When you try to work with different groups and come to a compromise and then that compromise is abrogated later on by those who would have you believe they are trying to be fair, I think that what we are trying to do is an attempt to correct a problem that has come to our attention, nevertheless, we have to keep in mind how the bill was formulated and that was to sit down with different interests to come to a conclusion that they needed that one act rather than a number of acts dealing with the area of safety and food handling and preparation. At the same time fees were increased substantially. Several hundred thousand dollars more now paid in fees by restaurantrers and others who handle food in the State of Nebraska, fees to cover the cost of inspections, a fair rate increase in fees in exchange for some standards that were equalized and consolidated and that were applied fairly across the board in the State of Nebraska and now we're saying that we've got an exemption and we're going to try and cut back on some of the compromises that we reached several years ago and I don't think it is really very fair at this point with the restaurant people. I think that it is clear in my mind that they feel a little bit cheated and they've come to me and talked to me about this issue and I think that they have a legitimate concern, that they had an agreement that this is the way it was going to be, that they were going to stick together on this and they were going to take the increase in fees in exchange for the betterment of the laws and the codes that they would receive and here today we are trying to turn back an agreement that I thought everybody had agreed to several years ago. I'm just pointing out that I think it is not very fair although I understand