

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, fine. Mr. President and members, the amendment to the committee amendments that I offer to you would reinstate in the bill the language of the bill that makes LB 457 apply to common carriers as well as other employers. And I can tell you very frankly the reason for that is because that is the reason that I introduced the bill originally because I think we had ought to be concerned about the hazardous materials that are being transported through our communities across this state. The committee amendment strikes from the bill the language dealing with common carriers. Now I have just had the Pages hand out to you a packet of information. If you will look through there, the...telling, and I won't bother to read it for you, you can read it yourself, but the telling one is the second sheet circled in red. That is a weigh bill for a B & N shipment for a tank car and if you will notice the part that is circled in red, it says, "Dangerous, contains hazardous material", and that is all it says. Now if you were an employee of that train and if that tank car started to leak, what would you do? What would you do? You don't know what you are dealing with. If you were a member of a volunteer fire department or a member of an ambulance crew someplace in this state and this car was involved in a railroad accident and if you will notice the front page of that report, you will notice that in 1985 alone there were a number of accidents, a number of reports of trains that were handling these hazardous materials, what would you do if you were that member of that volunteer fire department or the ambulance crew and came upon this particular car, got a copy of the weigh bill and the weigh bill said, "Dangerous, contains hazardous material", but did not tell you what it was? Let's say it was burning. You wouldn't have the slightest idea what to use on it. Now, we were told...we were told by the railroads that that doesn't happen. We were told by the railroads that they do indicate what it is, but you will also notice if you turn to the third sheet, there is a letter that indicates that the centralized billing system which is the one that you can call into and find out exactly what each car with hazardous materials has in it, that that system is closed down from 11:00 p. m. to 7:00 a. m. Now all accidents, you know, railroads run during the night as well and they are even so unfortunate once in a while to even have an accident at night. Things happen between 11:00 p. m. and 7:00 a. m. when the system is shut down, so, therefore, there is no way for anybody to even call it in and find out, plus the fact it might be