

industry before the committee at a luncheon session in the Revenue hearing room. We went over the committee amendments. They all knew about them, but it did not...the committee amendments, per se, did not have a hearing to which the public in general was invited.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you. That is my concern, Senator Johnson, with the committee amendments. I believe you described the issue itself as being terribly, terribly complex and I would agree. I have talked to numerous people including the drafter of the committee amendments and all have agreed that this is very, very complex. I have spoken to lobbyists who admit in some cases that they, too, are concerned about its complexity. We are looking at an issue here that admittedly is one of the most difficult issues to understand that we will be addressing this entire session. We are further being asked to accept committee amendments which have not had the benefit of a public hearing. Essentially, we are being expected to swallow an amendment which replaced, actually gutted, the original bill. The amendments, as Senator Johnson has explained, amend old LB 619. I think this is wrong. This is tantamount to a prostitution of our system, our own rules. I further believe, and I believe this most sincerely, that once the pencil is put to the paper, we are going to find some real problems, we are going to find some very serious consequences and serious ramifications involved in this piece of legislation. I feel that the bill should have had the benefit of a public hearing. As I read the Journal yesterday, I believe it is LR 200 which has been introduced by the Revenue Committee, I believe, or perhaps Senator Johnson to study this entire issue this summer. I think this is the proper way to go. I do not believe that gutted 717 as we are looking at it this morning is the correct direction, particularly without the benefit of a public hearing. I urge the body to reject the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis is next, but may I introduce a couple of groups in the south balcony who are our guests this morning. Senator Labeledz has 24 fourth graders from Karen Western School of Ralston in Omaha with their teacher. Will all of you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Rupp also has guests in the south balcony. There are 21 students from District 83 at Genoa, Nebraska, grades 3 through 8, with their teacher, and would all of you please stand and be recognized. And, thank all of you for visiting