

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to this particular amendment. I think I have been here, what, this is my third year now and I think I have been doing it a little bit wrong in the way I introduce bills and the way I bring bills to the floor. Probably what I should do is to wait until a bill that looks good comes up on the floor, is on Select File, then just attach my amendment to it or attach my bill to it. I feel in this particular instance what we are seeing is they are just bypassing the Retirement Committee and bringing the bill...I empathize with Senator Withem's, Senator Hartnett's amendment. Maybe it is a particular problem, but if it is worthy of consideration before the entire body, I am sure that the Retirement Committee will pass the bill on to the floor. I urge that this amendment should not be adopted. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman and members, I hate to stand at three-twenty and talk but I must, I guess. I have mixed emotions about this. This kind of effort makes it appear that a deputy sheriff in any county probably is a little more important than a dedicated clerk in a Register of Deeds Office, or the Clerk's Office, or the Treasurer's Office. I don't really think that is so. I think we have developed a planning system that could apply to all county employees and should apply to all of them equally. I think there probably is a problem in Sarpy County as it applies to their deputy sheriffs and law enforcement in particular but it is not unique. In Douglas County, for example, which is supposed to have the best of the best retirement systems, our data processing program probably loses 20 to 25 percent of its staff a year because they are so good. They are robbed by industry and we could do an awful lot in increasing benefits to try to keep them but it is really not that important, and I think it is a benefit that indicates how well the system works and how well the training is. I don't want to hurt 432. I think it is a very important bill and it should pass. I will make no recommendation in support or oppose but I think it does set a precedent that could in the long run be harmful. I would like think if this amendment isn't successful, the support of those from Sarpy County will still be there for 432 but also would make a commitment that we would work with Sarpy County to find a way, along with the Retirement Committee of the Legislature, to help develop