

SENATOR BEYER: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, just a little bit of time here to answer some of Senator Hall's concerns. He says this is not a safety issue, it's a labor-management. If it was labor-management, as far as I'm concerned, personally, I'd be the heck out of it. But it is a safety issue as far as I am concerned. And, Senator Hall, I was one of the senators that did go and visit the UP yards, I saw the black box. The black box strictly is an air sensor box, it tells the engineer up there what his air pressure is doing back there, at no way tells anything else. Also, if the railroad is really interested in safety, then a lot of the problems I see with some of the accidents that happen is a reflectorization on trains. They have got the coal cars pretty well reflectorized. When I asked them about that they stated to me that, well, the feds do not require it, so we don't do it. I said, why don't you do it on...and it would be quite costly. I said, okay, I can understand that part, but why don't you do it at least on the cars that you retrofit, the ones that you recondition, you paint and everything, put it on there then if you are really concerned about safety? They said, well, it is not required by federal regulations. So, Senator Hall, to me it is strictly a safety issue.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, there is a number of comments been made that I would like to respond to, but in the essence of time I won't have time to. But let me just simply say this, a lot of emphasis has been put on what the statistics say from one side or the other. Let me remind you that according to statistics if you have one foot in the deep freeze and the other foot in the oven, statistically you are comfortable. Now, if you believe statistics, and statistics can tell you anything you want them to tell you, if you believe statistics, then I don't think you've probably really understood the way that we ought to try to make our decisions up in here. Secondly, it has been mentioned also that we tried a 3-year experiment. We were one of a few states that did something in reaction to an action of a labor union-management bargain in Washington, D.C. You know, I'm reminded of a 50-year...of an experiment we began 50 plus years ago. We were the only state in the nation that said, you know, we're going to try a Unicameral Legislature. Well, we're still the only state in the nation. Now, I suppose there are those that would