

the Journal, it sets up a mechanism whereby we can determine the value of whether or not to allow caboosless trains in this state in terms of safety issues based on some statistics we could gather within the State of Nebraska. Now, the issue, at least the issue in my mind, is totally one of safety, whether or not it is more safe to have a manned caboose at the end of a train or whether it is not. And you can get statistics from either side of this issue that will say on the one hand that, yes, it is just as safe to not have a caboose. You can get statistics from the other side saying, no, that is not true. It seems to me that it would be beneficial to us as a policy-making body if we would have some mechanism to allow a third party to gather that information, to provide it to us so that we can make a determination based on that issue from operations of caboosless trains in the State of Nebraska. So the amendment that I offer would set up a mechanism whereby the Public Service Commission would be authorized to allow railroad companies operating in Nebraska to operate a specific number of trains without cabooses under certain conditions and we don't specify the number in this amendment. The conditions that are set forth are that there would be a public hearing held prior to such authorization, that those trains would be authorized to operate from July 15th of '86 to July 15th of '87, that those trains would operate on mainline tracks only, mainline tracks fully equipped with the operable monitoring devices, and that each train operating without a caboose should be operated with an operable rear end telemetric device which shall be monitored from a display in the locomotive. Now, it seems to me that it would be very helpful to us, I know it would be very helpful to me, personally, to know whether or not those statistics are slanted one way or the other from the various sides of this issue. I happen to think that is what we have got a Public Service Commission for. They could gather such information based on operations within this state, based on the statistics that would not be slanted from any particular perspective and then this Legislature, after July 15, 1987 and the amendment asks for that report to be prepared and submitted to the Legislature by November 15th of 1987, this Legislature then in the 1988 session could make a determination as to whether or not, based on Nebraska's statistics, from a third party, from the Public Service commission, that we should allow caboosless trains to operate. I think that is the way the decision had ought to be made rather than on the press of the lobby and I would ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator DeCamp. Senator Hannibal.