

those public safety questions that maybe are not fully settled in everyone's mind here. There are also some legitimate compromises that can grant the railroad industry those types of economic relief, that type of economic relief that they think is valuable. Senator DeCamp said that he thought there might be some resolution of this issue today. I want to just alert you a little bit to what he was talking about. Probably the process of negotiation began too late for it to have reached fruition by General File consideration. But I do think and I plan on offering an amendment on Select File to bring about a proposal that will phase out the use of cabooses over a reasonable time period, allow them immediately on trains of a particular length where the economic condition is allowed and perhaps some other sorts of relief and I will, hopefully, have a long, fruitful discussion between now and Select File on this bill with anyone interested in the bill and will also be able to discuss it fully on the floor at the time we consider the bill on Select File. I have been an opponent of this bill, continue to probably oppose the bill in its current form, but as a good faith show on my part that I am not trying to delay the bill, I am probably going to vote to advance it here on this particular level with the idea of it will be...discussions will take place between now and Select File and we will, hopefully, reach some sort of consensus. Now, why is it important to reach consensus? I guess that is something I need to address. Sometimes we reach for compromise merely for the sake of compromise. In this case I don't think that is it. I think there are two very, very good reasons why we should be looking for a middle ground proposal. The first reason is what this issue has done to us as an institution. Every year since I have been down here there have been one or two issues where we in the Chamber cease being independent senators exercising independent judgment and both sides from the lobby reach in and we are basically pawns in their game. I am afraid that has happened on this issue and I think it is time between now and Select File that we, the senators, reexert our authority over this bill. Secondly, I think it is important for the industry, for the railroad industry, which is a vital part of our state's economy, that we have a settlement that will not result in merely the introduction of more bills next year, continued fights between management and labor, but a type of settlement that will cause the industry to work together in harmony to promote the best economic interests of the state. Some of you may think I am naive in thinking that that is even a goal to talk about. If I am naive, so be it, but I do think we need to work toward that end. So I am going to be between now and Select File attempting