

to visit with members of the UTU, members of railroad management, to see if we can potentially work out a lasting solution to this problem that will get the perpetual labor management railway fights out of this body and back where they belong.

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you very much.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vickers, please, on the advancement of LB 807.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose the advancement of LB 807 and unlike Senator Withem I don't believe that there is a way to phase out caboosless or caboose trains. And if Senator Withem comes in on Select File with some mechanism to set a number of feet or a certain number of feet, I am going to oppose it because it seems to me that the issue is very clear. You either have them or you don't. You either amputate your leg or you don't amputate it. You don't cut it off at the knee if you are planning on amputating it. You don't cut it off at the ankle one year, the knee the next and then later on at the hip. If the goal is to amputate it, you amputate it, or at least that is what I would prefer. And I think that is the issue. Now, Senator Withem also says that this issue has been before us and as some other issues come in here we turn out or wind up being the pawns for various sides and that is kind of the reason I was offering the study mechanism so that we could develop our own statistics rather than taking the information from either one of those two sides and, I, too, share that concern. I agree with Senator Withem on that point that we had ought not to be used and I think we are being used if you are trying to make the decision based on whether or not it is safer for the general public. And I think, at least in my mind, that is the issue. It is not an issue of whether or not you want to penalize the railroads or whether or not you want to help out the union people. It is a matter of what is best for the traveling public in the State of Nebraska. Now, having said that, I need also to say that at least speaking for myself, and I would guess speaking for others in here as well, but speaking for myself, I was more than a little bit offended by the article in the World Herald indicating the caboose vote follows the money in terms of which side gives you the money in your election campaigns. Now, I don't know about the rest of you but I want to let all those turkeys back of the