

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, the committee amendments I think have been explained by Senator Remmers, the Vice Chairman of the Ag Committee.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Johnson. (Gavel.) Let's hold the conversation down, please. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Last year we passed the grain buyer's act that Senator Haberman sponsored for the purposes of protecting the public in working with the Public Service Commission. At that particular time, we allowed the records to be computed by the certified public accountants, however, we inadvertently left out another classification of accountants out there that are nonlicensed accountants, independent certified public accountants that I think there are an awful lot of people out there that can provide this type of compilation that you do not need to go to a certified public accountant. In some cases you have got truckers out there who simply cannot afford to go to a certified public accountant and may very well have an able-bodied individual in their community that they can turn to to help them with this. The committee saw fit to adopt...

SPEAKER NICHOL: The call is raised.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...the language that is in your bill books that allows for this provision to be in the bill. The Public Service Commission and Eric Rasmussen came in and testified they had no problem with allowing this provision to be added to the bill. It was not the Commission's decision to exempt them from the bill last year. It simply was the fact that some people recognized the problem late in the session as the bill was on, I believe, Final Reading and rather than jeopardize the bill by bringing it back and running out of time to address the bill, we simply passed the bill in its current form and agreed to try and clarify the problem this year. And that is exactly what the committee amendment is trying to do, simply trying to correct an error that we made last year in probably exempting some people that could well do the compilation as well, in fact, as probably a Public Service...or a certified public accountant. So I would move the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Remmers, please, then Senator Pappas.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think Senator Landis said it better than anybody has and I don't think I can improve on it. But I certainly want to echo