

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I had a few questions about the amendment that I have not had a chance to discuss with Senator Hannibal, although I did at least tell him that I was going to raise these questions.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Scofield, the call is raised. Now proceed.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Senator Hannibal, I haven't seen any rationale written up for the amendment and I would like to know what was the rationale in bringing this amendment for choosing length of the train to decide when and when a caboose would not be used.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Scofield, the amendment came to us, to me and to Senator DeCamp as co-sponsors from Senator Withem and Senator Hoagland and some other concerned senators looking for some middle ground and they brought this kind of amendment with them that talked about having length of train as being...and a phase out of the train as being a way to come up with some middle ground. If you are going to have a phase out of trains, I think it is a very rational thing to have lengths of trains be the phase out because if indeed lengths of trains are the concern as to whether you have a caboose on the end of it or not, for safety purposes, then if you allow shorter trains to run for a year without a caboose first, you will have a better idea whether indeed there is any safety problems or not than just repealing it straight out. The Railroad Association and the people that Senator DeCamp and I have been working with and several senators have said they understand the concerns of some concerned senators and they have decided that, yes, we will make this good faith effort to try to make a reasonable compromise, if you will, and have a phase out and that is why we came up with this.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. Would you agree that there might be other things that might be relevant considerations other than length when it might be wise to take additional safety precautions?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Such as?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: What you are carrying for instance.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: You mean like hazardous materials?