

understanding, have gotten some flood...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...relief from the state already because they don't have enough wherewithal to raise money to take care of that. So they cannot take care of a disaster that has occurred but they're going to be able to find money to rehabilitate a railroad. It just does not make sense to me. I didn't support it yesterday or whenever we voted on this bill and I won't support it today. There are no negotiations under way right now and I don't believe, if they should be resumed, that the railroad is going to agree to give more for less. It doesn't make sense.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wickersham, followed by Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Just a brief response to Senator Chambers' question or his statements. I think it is hard for...perhaps for Senator Chambers and perhaps others here to realize but when we began the negotiations with the C&NW the asking price for the line was over \$10 million. And over a period of time we have been able to reduce that requirement to a considerable extent, to the extent that on May the 2First, in Governor Nelson's office, the President of the C&NW line agreed to sell the Norfolk to Chadron portion for \$5 million. Now, if that seems incredible to Senator Chambers and to other of you, so be it, that is simply a fact. And I think that we can continue to be successful in our negotiations. In addition, I think Senator Chambers left out one essential element in that the State of Nebraska is not the only one interested in this line. And, if indeed, the negotiations required that an additional sum be paid for the Chadron to Crawford segment, it is always possible that we would be able to obtain that or potentially anyway obtain that from other sources. The other thing to consider here is that if we're unsuccessful in getting the segment from Chadron to Crawford included in the package, I think everyone realizes that the line from Chadron to Norfolk is not going to be viable and the \$5 million would not be spent in any event. So I'm...I'm not overly concerned at this point about whether or not Senator Chambers or others think we would be successful in negotiating for the trackage that we want, at the price that we want. I think we have been...we have had a considerable amount of