

amendments and advancement of LB 310. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Warner, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I was going to briefly say the bill as introduced was to clarify a number of procedures that had been raised by an Attorney General's Opinion as to how appropriately to address this whole area of committee amendments are consistent with the way the bill is introduced and I would urge their adoption. And I don't know what else people are talking about for other amendments, but I'll look forward to seeing what that is if and when they show up.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Preister, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I rise also to support the committee amendments, slightly different reason than some. I have had concern about removing utilities from under the Budget Act and I think the committee amendments address some of those. I sat on that committee and I wish thank all the committee members for their indulgence of my concern. I was going to submit an amendment today, but I'm going to be working with some of the utilities and doing some compromise on that so that we can come up with an amendment that's agreeable to the utilities as well as to address my concerns with good accountability to the public. Perhaps many people don't know and I wish to share that our state budget, as many of us do know, is \$1,492,000,000, rounded off, and Senator Moore might think that is heresy, rounding off that much money. That was for fiscal year '92-93. The combined fiscal budget for '92-93 for all of the utilities combined, the electric utilities and irrigation districts is \$1,485,000,000 which is virtually the same amount as the state budget. I just think we need good accountability, we need to look carefully at that kind of procedure that shows the accounting practices and how this money is spent. So at this point I appreciate the committee's work in putting together the committee amendments. I will support them and on Select File I hope to bring back an amendment that is addressing some additional concerns, mine as well as the utilities in language that we have all worked out to our mutual