

other issue on the floor, there's going to be a much greater hesitancy to do that. I mean it's not...some would argue I'm trying to protect turf. That's not my issue at all. The simple issue is that if you...these bills have enough of a stigma attached to them already if they are allowed to be used as a vehicle for all of the debate since they always come in late in the session, we know they're going somewhere, I mean it's free game for, you know, how many different issues do you amend into them. And so for that reason, one, it's not so much this amendment but the following battle on LB 839, I would encourage the body to stand firm and vote no on these amendments. I think if we just quickly dispose of them I think there's...I believe we're going to get down to the bill that all these amendments are talking about, which is LB 348, I believe. And so I would rise to oppose Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. My concern is simply what sort of Pandora's box you're opening up on these bills. And in the future if this is the manner that we're going to use these as a vehicle for all sorts of not only noncontroversial but very controversial agendas in the waning days of the session, it will be much more difficult in years to come for the body to enact statutory changes that are necessary to balance the budget. And so I rise and oppose Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I was sitting here quietly assuming that the Bernard-Stevens amendment was noncontroversial and would go until Senator Moore got up and gave us a lecture about how we ought to behave in here and what the proper method for senators to deal with legislation is, and I'm sure we all appreciate his lecture to us. I think Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment is in fact germane. I think it is appropriate. I think we're at the time of the session when it is...we're all scattering trying to make sure that we get legislation done. LB 348 may or may not come up. I'm somewhat indifferent to the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I'm somewhat indifferent to LB 838. I'm not indifferent to the amendment on LB 839. Senator Moore rather blandly stands up, blissfully stands up, he knows everything that's going on and we should listen to him, indicating that we will in fact get to LB 348. If we don't, Senator Moore, and if we don't deal with amendments on the next bill, there's over \$20 million worth of state in lieu of money that will not get distributed to local school districts. I think it's appropriate to amend bills that are in front of us. These bills were both