

PRESIDENT MOUL: You've heard the motion to advance. All those in favor please say aye. Opposed nay. LB 838 is advanced. That's all we have on this bill. The next bill is LB 839.

CLERK: Madam President, I have a motion to return. Senator Withem would move to return LB 839 to Select File for specific amendment. You'll find the amendment in your bill books, AM2496.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the body. First let me apologize for I was probably slightly intemperate at least in the tone of my voice when I responded to Senator Moore's assertions on LB 838. And it's a long-standing concern that I have and that is at this end of the session how do we manage...manage our time and what bills come forward, what bills don't, and would point out that there are a number of bills on Final Reading today that were considered in the appropriations package which are not part of the responsibility of funding state government on an ongoing basis but they're policy issues. The one we're dealing with right now, for instance, I think has a grand total in its pristine form of about a \$34,000 a year impact on state government. And the process by which we elevate some bills and, therefore, leave other bills at the starting gate is always a frustration, and I've never quite understood how bills get into the Appropriations Committee package and probably I ought to say on the Revenue Committee package, I'm now on the Revenue Committee, become considered ahead of individual senator priority bills when those bills do not have priority status. That was kind of a frustration I was mentioning before about the ability of some of our committees to put bills before the Legislature. And then I think if the bill is before the Legislature, properly before the Legislature, amendments ought to be considered. What I'm trying to do with this amendment in effect is take ornaments off the Christmas tree. Normally this time of year we are loading up bills with Christmas tree ornaments. LB 348 is one of those. LB 348 has a multitude of amendments to it. I have a real fear that even if we get to it it may get bogged down on consideration of those amendments. There are things in LB 348 that need to pass. I would like to consider two issues that I think the Legislature needs to give an answer to this session. And I'm using LB 839 as the instrument to do that; and if we get these considered at