

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I realize we're speaking on an amendment and I will address the amendment. My major concern was the issue at hand, but it also applies to the amendment. It is obvious to me, I hope it is similarly obvious to several people in the room, that we have a bill here that has a lot of ramifications in some people's eyes. For the new people to the body I have an awful lot of empathy because I was here two years ago and I'd like to explain that we have several options in this case. I voted against killing the bill because the arguments were that it was a hastily drawn bill and there is a lot of questions to be answered and a lot of ramifications so let's dispose of it and I believe that is the wrong answer. We have another option and that is to fail to let it advance. On General File you have three chances that I understand to have a bill advance to Select File. If it fails the first time it just goes to the bottom of the list and it comes back up and you try it again if the introducer so desires. And I think at this point that that would be a good avenue to go because of all the ramifications and all of the different misunderstandings of exactly what the Claims Board does, what kind of majority it takes, what kind of impact two lay people would have upon that majority, whether there is politics involved or not. We have had a situation placed before us very early in the debate stages here where we have bills at the suggestion of the Speaker to come to the floor so we could start debate on General File and to my knowledge many of these bills do not even have committee statements in them in the book and I don't think that this one did and we haven't had a good chance to look at these bills and discuss them thoroughly, introducers and the opponents, to try to get together, come up with some amendments that would make the bill workable for all parties. I was not in favor of killing the bill for that reason because it may have some merit. Senator Higgins' amendment may have some merit. There might be some other kinds of amendments that will make this bill a good bill for the State of Nebraska and not a bad bill. I don't believe there is politics involved. I would like to see that the politics do stay out of it. I think the arguments on both sides were fairly valid. I would recommend that we not pass the Higgins' amendment, to go ahead and let the bill come up for vote, let it fail to advance and let the introducer and the proponents get together with some of the opponents and see if they can work out something or at least have their arguments together, have the facts together and