

Johnson comes in here with something about agriculture, and Senator Schmit comes in, when Senator Warner comes in on something on the budget, they've given me all that I need now and the opportunity to talk everything to death. This, simply, is not the time or the place to deal with it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up. Senator Wesely, did you wish to close, please?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I would. Mr. Speaker, members, I understand Senator Chambers' concern. The reason I don't want to deal with them right now is because this bill does not get at those issues whatsoever. The question about the drug abuser being added is an issue unto itself. In that context we have defined it more clearly through the Beutler amendment. We have placed them through a process with more rights for these individuals than they now have. It is a process that more clearly identifies the reason that they are being committed. It is something that I think is in their best interest. The broader issues that Senator Chambers raises are always...he is very effective at this. It is called the "straw man argument." You don't attack on the basis of the actual issue at hand, you raise another issue, a bigger issue, a bigger problem that everybody can identify with. So everybody says, God, that is a bad deal, let's all oppose that. So, as a result you divert attention from the issue before you. The issue before you isn't the broader question of the Mental Health Commitment Act. That is not the issue. This amends, in a small fashion, a problem that we've had in dealing with the drug abuser who is dangerous to either themselves or to the public. It needs to be dealt with in services to take care of their problems. That is what this bill attempts to do. The broader question of revising the Mental Health Commitment Act could take forever to deal with. The reason I say it's not the time or the place to deal with it is that once you get into it it's a labyrinth. You can lead yourselves down into a hole that you'll never get out of if you deal with it in a fashion in the middle of a session. It's not the time or the place because it's a bigger issue than even Senator Chambers is talking about. I recognize that. I've talked to people about it. I'm willing to look at that, but not now, not at this point. I think that this bill is in good shape at this point to go forward with the amendment that we adopted. It is a very complicated issue. Many of you probably don't really follow it very closely, or if you do