

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Scofield, please, then Senator Smith.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker, members, while I have to say that I like the content of Senator Beutler's amendment, I have to say that someone has done a better job of drafting something than I did when I first drafted this. Therefore I am going to oppose the way he is suggesting that we proceed here. This bill, right now the way we've amended it, I'm not sure anybody really knows what the thing says for sure. I think the bill itself has problems. I think the way the study is designed can be improved upon. It is my understanding that Senator Smith has an amendment coming up here that I believe is superior, or at least is better designed than this. So I would just oppose this. I would like to give a few minutes of my time to Senator Rupp who has been watching the process of this bill very carefully and I think has some remarks to make here that are relevant.

SENATOR RUPP: Thank you, Senator Scofield, for yielding your time. Mr. President, colleagues, I think we reached a point in debate where we should just step back about four steps and take a long look at this bill, the shape it is in, and where we are at today. I, likewise, am pleased to see Senator Beutler and some people talking about interim study, but I, too, am going to oppose it and support Senator Smith's which is on the desk right behind this. As of yesterday I kept track of the amendments that have been proposed on this bill, this was at the start of yesterday's business, we were up to 30. I would imagine we are over 40, probably moving up on the 50 mark on amendments that have been proposed. Now granted they haven't all been adopted, some withdrawn, some amendments to amendments, etc., etc. These aren't counting Attorney General opinion, dividing the question, indefinitely postpone motions, rereferencing motions, etc., etc. I'm getting to the point that I am very apprehensive of what we're doing here. We've got a lot of people watching from the balconies, watching their government in action. I think they probably are beginning to get some doubts about this because if there is a person on this floor that understands exactly where we are now, I wish you'd raise your hand and I'll come down and visit with you as soon as I finish because I'd like to know...I'd like an update. There are a lot of parallels with this. On a bill last year, 1106, the big water bill that I voted against simply because it reached a point that I didn't