

invited. So keep those two things in mind. Mr. Clerk, shall we move on.

CLERK: I'm ready, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: 532.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 532 was offered by Senators Withem, Higgins, Rod Johnson, Baack, Pappas, Morehead, Peterson and Haberman. (Title read.) The bill was first read on January 22 of this year, referred to the Urban Affairs Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Urban Affairs Committee amendments pending, Mr. President, which, of course, is chaired by Senator Ron Withem.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, LB 532 is the Urban Affairs Committee bill. It was brought to us by the City of Omaha to help them improve some of their processes they go through in condemnation cases. Condemnation cases, of course, are those in which the owner of a piece of property does not maintain that property in such a manner as to provide for public health and safety. A building becomes condemned when it becomes a safety factor for other individuals who may wander upon that property, if it's not properly secured, if it has rotten steps, the roof falling in, those sorts of procedures. In Omaha we have a number of properties, or in Omaha, they have, excuse me, I'm not an Omaha senator, they have a number of properties that are not being maintained and they have a very active condemnation proceeding. They have run into some problems recently where some residents, some owners of the property choose not to improve their property, but choose rather to just allow it to deteriorate. And on the other hand they don't want to have it condemned either so they've been going into court and using the court as a means of delaying this procedure. Now I will explain the committee amendment. Originally, they had a provision in the bill that said that whenever an owner makes an appeal of a condemnation finding for vexatious purposes or for delay, the court would order the appeal, the person who was appealing, to pay the court costs. The Urban Affairs Committee after considering this provision, although we definitely sympathize with the City of Omaha on this matter,