

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I guess I would just point out that the amendment to the committee amendments, which was just adopted, has substantially changed the committee amendments that the committee amendments previously did water the bill down considerably and I think that was proper. I think the amendment which was just adopted to the committee amendments has made this a bill which we probably do not want, that this is changing the system that we have in this state considerably. I know there are not very many people on this floor paying attention to the bill, but this is a substantial bill that should attract the attention of every senator here. We have currently the CIR system in this state which a lot of other states don't have and it seems to me that that has been serving us well and that now as the committee amendments have been adopted we are back substantially to the original bill which is very inclusive, very comprehensive, and I don't think we want that.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I guess this is about as good a time as any to jump into the debate in dealing with LB 520. I serve on the Judiciary Committee and I didn't support the bill leaving the committee. It was an interesting hearing. There were essentially three groups involved in the debate over LB 520. If you look in your committee statement, you will find that they had a representative from the Nebraska Chapter of Associated Building Contractors and they were in support of the bill. I think for the most part their arguments are somewhat justified in seeking to have binding arbitration allowed in the State of Nebraska, and then interestingly had two other groups that were involved. You had the Nebraska State Education Association versus the Nebraska Association of School Boards. Now what you have here are the two groups that are supposed to be working together and voluntarily agreeing to binding arbitration. But right here from the start, they are at opposite ends. Neither one is in agreement on this binding arbitration. So I am really wondering how good this LB 520 is going to work in actuality when you get the school board sitting there and the teachers come in and they ask for a new contract for allowing binding arbitration, whether these two groups are going to come