

State of Nebraska. In addition, the groups that will be most directly affected by this bill are already at odds with each other on whether to allow arbitration. So it brings into question whether this bill will actually ever be used. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. We do have some guests under the south balcony this morning. They are guests of Senator Abboud. They are Mrs. Bonny Abboud who is Senator Abboud's mother, and his Aunt, Betty Haas. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Any further discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Beutler, are you going to close or is Senator Hoagland going to close on the committee amendments?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Why don't I...let me make a couple of comments and then Senator Beutler can finish up.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Fine.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: As Senator Abboud pointed out, the Associated Building Contractors did testify at the public hearing in favor of inclusion in this bill so that the construction contract situation Senator Landis described could be resolved. If we have an ongoing multimillion dollar construction project and a dispute arises between the contractor and the union, this arbitration agreement, this arbitration act will allow relatively swift resolution of that dispute. If, on the contrary, the only method of resolving it is by going to court, we could be looking at a year and a half or two years easily. That is the average time the courts take to resolve the kind of disputes that I deal with in my practice. Now, also in response to Senator Abboud's comments, let me indicate that, number one, both parties have to agree to submit to arbitration, a dispute, an existing dispute, both parties have to agree to include in a collective bargaining agreement a provision that if there is a future dispute, it will be submitted to arbitration. So, as Senator Beutler indicated earlier, there is no threat of arbitration being imposed on anyone. If a contractor and a union, if either of them don't want to include an arbitration clause, they don't have to. The same with the situation in any kind of employer-employee relationship. A clause can be included in the collective bargaining agreement only by the agreement of both sides. Our arbitration is the wave of the future. Forty-four