

Beutler say we're making much ado about nothing. Obviously, every surrounding state felt it was important enough to clearly rule uniformly one after another when these things were attempted there. The public officials can't use this way to abdicate their authority as elected officials and turn it over "to the labor side". They were elected for a purpose. They have to live up to it even when it's easier simply to say, well, we don't agree, throw the whole thing to some other panel. I urge you not to advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, then Senator Lynch.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise in opposition to the bill. Earlier I did support the amendment. I did support the amendment for one reason. It did restrict back what the original bill stated it would do and I felt that if the bill was going to go, that it should have a major restriction placed upon it. In committee I didn't support the bill leaving and my reason for it is basic, it's basic. It deals with the philosophical viewpoint that the Supreme Court has looked at this issue and has felt that it is against public policy to have a binding arbitration for much the same reasons as Senator DeCamp earlier stated. I feel that in agreeing with Senator DeCamp this is going to be a test case. We're going to pass this piece of legis...if the legislation does pass, it's going to go back up before the Supreme Court and if that fails, I suppose there will be a constitutional amendment in the future. I don't feel it is good public policy to have it. I don't know why these groups really need it at this time. I know in my own local school district of Ralston they did use arbitration this last year. They called it win-win and both sides seemed to be pretty happy. It wasn't binding arbitration, but it was an arbitration where both sides sat down, talked about the issues and were able to discuss them properly. Both sides came to an agreement. In the past they haven't. They have brought a number of their decisions or a number of the decisions of the Ralston School Board have gone up before the CIR and that's worked good too. I mean, both parties did get a group to decide it, a group that wasn't involved in the school district, a group that was away from the situation. They sat down, looked at what the teachers were making in the Ralston School District and they made a decision in comparing it with other school districts around this state and nation. And I don't think you're going to find too much of a difference between that