

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.) Let's hold it down so we can hear the speaker. Thank you.

SENATOR ABOUD: Now I also have been handed an amendment which will probably be included in 494 which irritates me even more in the fact that this bill, or the amendment that is going to be attached in the future that was handed to me, is a bill that affects the other half of my constituency. My district is serviced by Peoples Natural Gas but also by MUD. Now one of the compromise amendments that they are talking about is going to have a direct impact on MUD and the other, I believe, they service a large, well, approximately maybe 12 senatorial districts in addition to the Cities of Fort Calhoun, Springfield, and Bennington. Now I was contacted by an MUD representative, I believe there is one in the back of the Chamber at this time, and Tom Wurtz up in Omaha, and they are dead set against an amendment that they are planning to attach onto this bill. So what you have in addition to this is that I am going to be having a bill, LB 494, which is going to actually split my district. In one half it is going to help the constituency. In the other half it is going to hurt the constituency and I guess I don't know where I am going to be on the bill after that once this amendment is attached because MUD is going to be soundly against the amendment whereas it is going to help the other half of my constituency dealing with Peoples Natural Gas. So the bill itself is taking on a rather distorted turn from what I originally envisioned when the bill was introduced. The bill was voted out by the Urban Affairs Committee, eight, zip, relatively little controversy on the first two rounds of debate. Now it is being railroaded on Final Reading, and I guess if that is the attitude this body wants to have where you have a piece of legislation that affects your constituency and you don't mind senators bringing in the legislation to amend that bill even when you are solidly against those particular amendments, then that is fine with me. Maybe this is a precedent that we need to establish. Maybe Senator Chambers, no one will mind when Senator Chambers brings in amendments on Final Reading to the bills, because that is what you are establishing with this principle. We are on the 31st day of the session, and if this is the type of attitude that the body wants to have to bring in amendments that aren't supported by the sponsors of the piece of legislation, then so be it. But that is what you are establishing by this particular vote. I urge this body