

you an option so that we can put the rules in the game, put it...make the level playing field, whatever you want to call it. And I would recommend that we advance this bill and not refer it to committee.

**SPEAKER NICHOL:** Senator Barrett, then Senator Nelson.

**SENATOR BARRETT:** Mr. President, members, I, too, rise in opposition to the referral effort, the motion to send this back to the Appropriations Committee. I ask you what purpose will that serve. I did suggest to you that the motion to bracket was a motion to kill. I again suggest to you that the motion to refer back to committee is nothing more than a motion to kill. There have been innuendos that there is something behind the scenes that is happening here, a skulduggery of sorts. I take exception. I know again how hard some people have worked on this particular issue. There is no effort, at least to my knowledge, to avoid the collective bargaining issue by the Legislature. The bill again is a 3 percent salary increase. The issue is collective bargaining. As has been suggested we are asking for a moratorium. We have a straight up approach, it is that simple. The committee amendment is very straightforward, as is the approach of the Appropriations Committee and the approach of the Business and Labor Committee. I can assure you to bracket or to return to committee is to kill the bill. I again recommend that we move it to Select File. The bill is a 3 percent increase with a 1 year moratorium, it is that simple, a moratorium, period, for a consultant or whoever to consider the crisis which is perhaps in the eye of the hurricane, and we do have a crisis. I urge you to defeat the motion to refer back to committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER NICHOL:** Senator Nelson, then Senator Vickers.

**SENATOR NELSON:** Mr. President, members of the body, I, too, hope that you do not return it back to committee. I guess I feel the same as Senator Schmit. This is simply shifting from one department to the other. I realize how important the Court of Industrial Relations are and have been. Through the years state employees salaries were very low. I compare it to maybe the teachers salary. But I think that has been rectified. And I see this at this point, we discussed tax on farm machinery repairs the other day. We discussed the homestead exemption. We discussed one tax