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LB 70A, 589A, 645

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm willing to concede, since everybody is saying that this has been done before, that we don't...and I think they're agreeing with me, too, that we don't even need A bills. But now to get down to where we are that causes Senator Brashear said that there's a necessity to proceed in the way that he is doing, I don't agree with that because there are other A bills and they...one, for sure, is on Select File that probably will pass, LB 589A. I don't know about LB 70A, but that even may have a chance. And there are some bills with A bills on Final Reading. And if Senator Brashear's bill can be amended today on Select File and still have time to be processed, a bill can be returned from Final Reading to Select File, amended with this appropriation language, and processed today also. But if the body would rather proceed in this, what I would call, extraordinary manner, the body is free to do that. But I'm going to raise these issues. I am not beholden to the telecommunications industry or any entity thereof. I'm not beholden to public power or any municipality or other entity that could be called a public entity that would be involved with the possible providing of these services. But I am a member of the Legislature and I'm concerned about the process that we use. I'm not fighting Senator Brashear's amendment. Public power and the other public entities, other than the municipalities, I imagine, from something I read in the paper, have sold out. That's why it's difficult to do anything other than compile a record as I and Senator Beutler and maybe one or two others who have spoken have attempted to do. If you're going to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if you're going to do what Senator Brashear wants you to do, because you have a big bill that has had millions of dollars spent lobbying it, you can do it. But the Legislature is not receiving money from anybody. Now one of our members is, but that's as a lawyer representing one of those entities. We ought to stick as closely as we can to the procedures and processes that we have in place. If this process that Senator Brashear is attempting has never been litigated, we're not in a position to say what a court would rule or how a