

come to a decision and the decision, Senator Ashford, is to vote...or is not to vote on the motion to bracket. I think most of the members of this body know how I feel about bracketing bills. We have already bracketed one bill until the 22nd of this month. We aren't quite a third of the way through the session. A bill the size of LB 159 can very well go a long way toward plugging up the pipeline. One of my concerns is just that. Senator Ashford spoke eloquently with regard to the time spent on the clone to this bill last session. Time was spent during the summer, this past summer. Considerable amount of time has been spent already this session. This bill was placed on General File January 27th. It was passed over four days later for the first time. There was a request to hold the bill on General File and I agreed with that request. The following day one of the principal introducers said that the amendments, which have been referred to, have been prepared or are being prepared, should be on the agenda next week. That was last week. Last week, two of the principal introducers agreed that it could be placed on the agenda this week. Yesterday I asked one of the principal introducers if the bill was ready to go. He replied in the affirmative. If the body votes to bracket this bill, I can understand but I have no serious reservation at this point but I am suggesting to the body that a problem is building and, in my opinion, this Legislature is being teased and played with. If this bill is bracketed to March 2nd, as the motion calls for, it would be my hope that the bill can be voted up or down on March 2nd without any further games being played. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, then Senator Chizek.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I appreciate Senator Barrett's statements and I know this bill is being very, very heavily lobbied. But I would ask you when you just discuss this with the lobbyists if they have any factual material to back up the allegations that they are making about this bill. They had an additional six to eight months to take aim at this bill and now they're coming unglued on this thing in the last two months...last month. They never talked to me about it over the last seven months, not once was it ever brought up to me that there was a problem. The only conversation I had on this bill in the interim was a discussion with Gene Welch, a defense attorney from Omaha, who said there are a couple technical problems that I have with the bill, but otherwise I'm not going to object to the bill, I'm not going to object to the bill. There are a few technical problems with