

SENATOR WITHEM: Because of some specifics that make it really difficult for the City of Omaha or City of Lincoln to comply, can you tell us what those specifics are?

SENATOR SMITH: No, it isn't that they can't, that they don't do these things, they do them but they do them in a different process. And by bringing me copies of their charters, their codes, those sort of things, they did show...they did convince me that they're doing all of these and, in fact, much more than what we're asking to have done here. But the process that I'm asking to have done for first class cities, which they can comply with in this procedure, are not the way that they have done it and are doing it presently. They have a much...I guess they have more of an administrative branch of government than we have in the first class cities. They do have the mayoral government but it's very different from what the procedure is in a first class. Examples would be that it would be...and I can give you some...ooh. They were talking, for instance, about my first requirement as a part of the steps, the procedure to go through. It's the steps, it's the process that are very different that they can't do a resolution to adopt potential annexation because (interruption).

SENATOR WITHEM: I...I...Mr. Speaker, I understand the light went out and all and I know a lot of people don't care about this issue, it is relatively important to the district I represent so I would appreciate being able to hear Senator Smith's answers...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Your point is well taken.

SENATOR SMITH: Well, do you want to talk and I'll put my light back on so that I won't take your time if you want to just...

SENATOR WITHEM: No, I want to hear what you have to say.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. All right, what basically their problem was is that they have an ongoing continuing process. They start at a certain time of the year and they continue on and their whole procedure is very different from the way first class cities do this so that if they have already got this ready to go, then saying we have a resolution and now we're going to do this, they have already done some of those things and it's just the difference in how they do it. And they have convinced me because we did sit down and we had a long discussion about it.