

bill, as it is now, and as it will return, is in a good shape. It will protect the people and I have the...we live in the same...somewhat the same area and we have the same problems. But this, I think, specifies the procedure that the city council, and so forth, must go through before they annex. So I think it's a good move...it's a good bill and I support it, did support it in committee. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, and I would thank Senator Hartnett for clarification also. And I would be very pleased between now and when the bill comes back for Final to sit down...I was...I did try to visit with Senator Withem and I missed him. I'm sorry that I didn't do that because Senator Withem had indicated he was interested in this bill and I didn't have the chance to tell you that we had had this meeting. I would like to give just a minute of my time, in closing, to Senator Hannibal who sat in on this meeting with us. And, by the way, there were people there, representatives, three from Lincoln, a couple from Omaha and then Senator Hannibal who was basically there, I wanted someone else there to be a mediator if we needed one. And so I would like to have him sort of add a few words if he has some that he would like to add.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm going to oppose the amendment because Senator Chambers said if I'm for it, he would be against it. Only to clarify some legitimate questions that Senator Withem does raise and Senator Withem and I have also worked on SID legislation together and certain annexation things. What the bill was intended to do, as Senator Hartnett did point out, was to allow for some processes that do not exist right now in Class I cities. Senator Smith has told you that class...the primary class and metropolitan classes have processes that are even more protective of the citizens than the bill points out, but they are different processes and so all this is doing is taking the bill back to the original intent and not creating what could become some extremely chaotic situations with regards to the present processes that are going on in the primary class and the metropolitan class cities, Lincoln and Omaha, to be exact. So it isn't...it isn't hurting anything in Omaha. It isn't changing anything in Omaha or Lincoln. It is helping the Class I citizens to give them some of the