

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion on the Withem amendment to the amendment, Senator Chizek, any comment? Thank you. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, members, I rise in support of Senator Withem's amendment to the amendment. It clarifies the only concern that I had with regard to the amendment and the reason for the division of the question. With the adoption of Senator Withem's amendment I think it clarifies the issue and has a level playing field there for all those in the industry and I would urge the adoption. I understand that Senator Hartnett feels that this was already currently practiced, but I think all we do here is clarify that point. I would urge the adoption. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, on the amendment.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President, I had my light on earlier. I'd just like to comment as to the purpose of these two amendments. Both of the amendments that are attached to LB 279, or that have been before us, the CHIP's amendment as well as the service contract amendment are two distinct issues that were attached to a bill that had basically nothing to do with these two particular sections of statute and as a result the rule suspension was the rule of order and that was the reason why the introducers of these amendments chose to take that approach. I view this particular amendment in light of utility company versus the service, or the contractors that are involved in this business. As a member of the Banking Committee I heard the discussion of this particular hearing and at this particular time the reason this bill was brought in was there was concern that this was an unregulated area and though there were no problems at this time, that the groups involved, or one particular group, the natural gas group, felt that it would be better to be regulated, or follow the Department of Insurance's request to place themselves into the statute. So really we're talking about an area that really doesn't deal with insurance, but it deals with an area between competing interests in the providing of a service contract. The particular amendment that we're talking about, Senator Withem's, would allow contractors to become involved in this as well as the natural gas and the electric utilities and I guess in that particular regard that would be fine. We're just expanding the regulation to include those particular areas. It really doesn't make much difference to me whether this...Senator Withem's amendment is attached or