

Senator McFarland, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and fellow senators. Well, this is the start of a whole series of motions and bracket motions and reconsideration motions, and motions to overrule the Chair and things that we have had in the past, as a matter of fact, I find the admonition that somehow all that's really wanted is to debate the bill, rather hollow considering what was done on LB 769. I don't consider dividing an amendment up into 19 separate parts that had rhyme or reason to those divisions anything but a scheme or a plan or a dilatory tactic. As a matter of fact, I think it's fairly obvious what is going on and every...I think I would venture to say 49 people in this legislative body know that really what is not wanted here is additional debate on the issue and just a fair and full debate. What is wanted is to try to delay this matter until after midnight or after eleven o'clock, whatever the time is, so that it can't be advanced. We have even had promises by members of this body that that's exactly what they would do to any of these bills related to this issue; that they would, in fact, do everything they could to delay this coming to a vote. So, once again, in this next few hours we'll see the system abused again and we'll see the rules manipulated and perverted to try to accomplish that goal. A clear example, I think the motion to reconsider on this vote, if I'm not mistaken, I saw it filed even before we took the vote on the motion to...not to bracket. The motion of reconsideration had already been filed before a vote had been taken. So we will go tonight for the next several hours with motions to reconsider, another motion to bracket, which may be withdrawn, a vote on closing debate, debate is not ceased, then a reconsideration of that, and objections to that, another reconsideration, overruling of the Chair, motions to overrule the Chair to try to delay, and, at some point, we, as a legislative body and the Chairman, whoever that may be in the Chair at the time, is going to have to say to themselves and ask themselves what is fair under these circumstances. It seems to me that the Chair has a lot of...a lot of authority to either recognize or not recognize motions that are made or acknowledge particular motions. It seems to me that we, as a legislative body, when we see that the system is being abused, have an obligation to overrule rulings by the Chair that would just allow the debate to drag on and drag on for no apparent purpose. And so that's what I think is in store for us and I think we all know it and I hope and trust that the members of this body and the Chair, whoever is there at the time, will look upon