

foot here and there was another bill moving across that I wanted to stop, and the certain groups in the lobby wanted that bill stopped, then maybe a tactic like this would be something that would be asked of me to do. And, hopefully, I would not do it. What, in effect, is going on here is, as it has been said before, is an effort to hold LB 88 hostage. That is what is being done. It is, in effect, an effort to slow down LB 88 and hold it hostage to LB 262. Now let me just explain to you very briefly what the arrangement or the compromise that was worked out with Senator Kristensen was. It was simply that LB 262 would be put out on the floor, voted out on the floor by the Judiciary Committee, and it would deal with the issue of political subdivisions and municipalities in due course. And as Senator Abboud has pointed out, that particular bill is on General File and will come up for debate quite quickly. The only reason, the only reason to bracket 88, it has nothing to do with public policy, it has nothing to do with the issues in LB 88. As Senator Warner said, and listen to what he said, he said that the standard of liability in LB 88 is probably okay. So what then is the reason for doing this? If the standard of liability is okay, basically, now, then the only reason that there can be for bracketing this bill at this time is to hold up 88, even though it may be the right standard of liability to enable the municipalities and the counties who are behind the glass to say we want certain exclusions and exemptions from LB 88. Well, that is fine. They may very well want those and they may very well have the votes to do it, but it is not a reason...that is not a reason...if this were the last two weeks of the session, possibly the argument could be to have some validity, possibly. But this is early in the session, both bills are going to be debated on this floor, and they are both going to be able...they are both going to stand or fall on their merits. Senator Kristensen is going to have an opportunity in his LB 262 to argue to you why certain employees of cities and counties should be excluded from any liability whatsoever, no matter who is injured. That is his burden. That is his burden to prove to you that something should be done in that area. I don't think it should be, but he may be able to get 25 votes and he may succeed. That is fine. That is the process. LB 88 has been worked for five years. It has been rewritten three or four times. It has gotten...it cannot be written any tighter. We have accepted the Kristensen amendment now, which creates Senator Kristensen suggests another balancing. I would suggest that it creates another hoop for victims to go through, but we have accepted that particular amendment. The bill cannot be