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**SPEAKER BAACK:** One minute.

**SENATOR KRISTENSEN:** ...for a wide range of opportunities. This is not just limited to martial disputes. This could be in the area of mental health. This could be in governmental agency disputes, I assume, too, Senator Landis, that you may have where you don't have to say every time I've got to hire a lawyer to go fight this case or work this problem out, or I don't have to wait for months for an administrative hearing, I don't have to wait for months for my date in trial. I think it's a good program. It's a good first start. The projects, in terms of around the state with a limited number, we'll get an idea of how this does work. Hopefully, this is something we can integrate statewide some day and will work very well. But I see it as a good alternative to going to court. If I can keep people out of courts and out of trials, I think we're well served. And, with that, I would support LB 90.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Kristensen. We will now go to Senator Schmit.

**SENATOR SCHMIT:** Mr. President and members, it's always amazing how a piece of legislation can be extremely controversial at one point and within a year or two become almost totally noncontroversial. As Senator Landis pointed out when we first discussed mediation of farm disputes, you would have thought the world was coming to an end. The bankers opposed it, some attorneys opposed it. There was concern in the court system. Farm organizations, for the most part, were apprehensive and when I proposed that it be done on a mandatory basis they all screamed bloody murder but we did finally pass a voluntary mediation program which I think was sort of a weak way to do it, but it did work. It is working fairly good. And now Senator Landis wants to give other disputes a chance to be resolved in the same manner. I think Senator Landis and Senator Kristensen have explained very well the advantages and they see it from a lawyer's point of view. Looking at it from the point of view of a layperson, a person who knows the problems of going to court, a person who has tried to resolve problems, I agree with what Senator Kristensen has said. At some point, there is usually a time when parties can get together and agree upon a solution. One time I was visiting with a friend of mine who was a high-paid lawyer and he told of a client who said, well, I