

thing is the way the bill is drafted now. On page 4 it says, if either party, his or her legal counsel, which puts the lawyer in the middle of it, insisting on this first session or the court can compel the two parties to sit down. This puts the lawyer right in the middle of it and this is what shows how ridiculous it is, the very next sentence. The purpose of the mediation process shall be to reduce acrimony which may exist between the parties. Madam Chair, I'm going to ask you, can they be quiet under there?

PRESIDENT MOUL: (Gavel.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the reason I say it because we've got two former senators so they don't mind me being very blunt with them. How you doing, Bill and John? That will make them listen too and see that nothing has changed since they left and it will make them glad that they're not here anymore. But if the purpose of this session is to reduce acrimony but the first session comes together in an acrimonious setting, that is a contradiction. Senator Ashford has his name on this bill and I can understand why he is concerned about these criticisms, but the criticisms are valid. Senator Kristensen is absolutely right about the hatefulness that can develop during a divorce proceeding which may exceed that which led to it in the first place and two people who are feuding are more offended by a third party interfering in their affairs than they are by anything else. And what this bill does is allow a lawyer or a judge to compel the two combatants to come together in the ring, battle it out that one time and when they are both bloody and battered say, well, yeah, I guess they're not going to get together so we won't have any more of this. That to my way of thinking is beyond that word c-r-a-z-y. Senator Ashford said that in Denver they compel people to come together in these situations and there has been a 79 percent success rate. He didn't tell us what success means. Does it mean that the two decide to go back together and see if they can work it out? He didn't tell us how many killings might result as a result of these 79 percent going back together. Senator Ashford, I want to ask you a question. Now you, I'm sure, have read some articles from Denver. How many men wound up being killed by spouses and the defense of being a battered woman was used, in Denver alone I'm talking about in the last three years? Do you know?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I don't know, Senator Chambers, how many men