

SENATOR STUHR: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the amendment. I could not support the bill without this amendment being presented. However, I do have some great concerns about just adding another layer of bureaucracy, another layer in negotiations. And I have some questions that I would like to address to Senator Abboud.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: I'll respond.

SENATOR STUHR: Senator Abboud, could you tell me who are the special masters? Who are these people going to be?

SENATOR ABOUD: Well, as I stated in the opening, the CIR, the Commission of Industrial Relations will provide the names of five individuals that are involved in this type of arbitration business and these five individuals will be submitted to both of the parties and they will I guess disqualify each...out of the five, each one will try to choose I guess one particular arbitrator and they'll both try to agree on one particular arbitrator to handle the case. But the names will be submitted from the Commission of Industrial Relations.

SENATOR STUHR: I see.

SENATOR ABOUD: Five individuals.

SENATOR STUHR: So these people will be trained then by the Commission on Industrial Relations or selected from that pool?

SENATOR ABOUD: The...I don't know what kind of training they'd have to go through through the CIR. I would assume that they'd be individuals, I know that the Bar Association has been very active in providing training programs and they have built up a list of individuals that are involved in arbitration and I think probably this Commission of Industrial Relations would look to that group probably first. I'd assume they'd be an attorney that has been involved in arbitration and mediation in the past.

SENATOR STUHR: So is there...will there be a cost then to either party in this layer then of the masters?

SENATOR ABOUD: Well, there probably...I assume these individuals are only going to be paid...it would be similar to