

come to the hearing and express their concerns. And when we see this statement from your committee of all this long list of people that support, it appears to me that that long list is mostly the bureaucrats, people in government, that like to do this because bureaucracy expands, and that makes their position look better, and this expands bureaucracy. Why are we afraid to have more hearings? If this is such a special, wonderful bill, why wasn't it put out before...before the first of March? Why wasn't it out there so people could talk about it? Why didn't it go back to the country and let the citizens of this state have input? Why is it that all these hearings that you had, over 95 percent of the people there were in opposition to what you were doing, 95 percent? You'd have four hour hearings, twenty minutes of someone in support, and the rest of the time with people in opposition, and those people were ignored. Is it any wonder that the people in Nebraska have a bad feeling about what their Legislature does to them? You may respond if you'd like.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That is totally inaccurate

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, you have three minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I certainly will respond. I have gone so far out of my way to be sure everybody has had input on this bill, Senator, that it makes me angry for you to stand up and say those things because they are not true. They are not true. Nebraskans First, who has been putting out all kinds of lies about this bill, that's another one of their lies. They were sent...they were a part of the Governor's Water Council. They were sent every draft of this particular bill. Every stage along the way, they were a part of it. They refused to participate. When the responsible rural organizations, who are members of the council, came forth with amendments to protect rural interests, they sat on their hands. They didn't vote, and then they decided to come back in and criticize the bill because they say there is too much procedure in it, and they pass out this chart that has this god-awful structural thing in it, and they say, look at all this procedure, it's a terrible bill. You know why it's all there? Because the rural interests, and the farm people, and the irrigators, to protect themselves, asked for those things to be in the bill, and they were put in the bill. Everybody, more than any other instance, has had an opportunity to participate and, Senator, if you're telling me