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LB 48, 748

1998 that showed double-piping that was put in place or that happened before we passed LB 78, and then he says LB 748 will cause double-piping. He knows that's not true. Then he talks about how it's unconstitutional. Here we are in the 80th day of a legislative session, and this is the first time anybody has said, LB 748 is unconstitutional. Give me a break. We have a legal, or a research analyst that serves the committee, and has for a number of years. I would say there probably isn't anybody that knows gas better than him. He's never mentioned that it's unconstitutional. For Senator Landis, then, to get up and say it violates federal law, again, on the 80th day of the legislative session, that's the first time we've heard that. And you all believe it. I'm really getting frustrated with this. I am trying to solve problems here in the state, and Senator Landis is trying to, in my opinion, be an obstructionist. Listen, the reality is this: The \$500 an hour lobbyist from the gas companies can probably go home now, because LB 748, I can tell you, won't pass this year. But I can promise you that LB 48 will not pass, as well. The lobby is full of these people out here. It's really frustrating to me. I do take a little exception to what Senator Chambers said, and I don't criticize the committee at all. Any of you who have ever served with Senator Landis on a committee, particularly in Executive Sessions, understand what it's like to serve with him. He is a very good negotiator, and I don't believe that Senator Friend or the committee did anything improper by sending both these bills out, but I do think at this point in the legislative session, it's okay to send them both back. I don't know what I'm going to do with the recommit to committee. I do think it was a little inappropriate for Senator Landis to file the motion. I'm operating in good faith, and he's not. And I do want to tell you this: The reason that I'm involved in LB 748, and I've said this to Senator Landis, for several years now he has had some sort of a vendetta or a grudge against the municipal gas company in Omaha. I don't know where this is coming from. I'll tell you this--all of my constituents are served by a metropolitan utility district. To my knowledge they do a good job. I have charts that show they have some of the lowest rates in the entire city. Somehow Senator Landis has some problem with them, and I don't know what it is. But he is trying to put territories on them which will not allow them to