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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 48, 748

trying to do today in LB 48. There...I'm going to put my light on one more time. I'll call the question. By that time we'll have about 45 minutes or an hour on it, mostly...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Time, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...by those who are for the motion, but I'll put the light on again.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Bourne and others.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. In listening to the debate, and...it seems like we've had this every year since I've been here. We've been fighting this same subject between who has the right to serve which cities with their natural gas. Now I...I'm very fortunate that I live in a district where we have some privately owned companies that are servicing some of the smaller towns. We have a large city, also--and I've mentioned this before--that had to go through a catastrophe to find out what was happening with pipes that were...or gas pipes that were put in by privately owned companies, then used it as a bargaining tool, and pawning it all back and forth, and a tragedy came along and finally the city said, we are going to take over this gas company, which they did. And it's been one of the best things that ever happened. A couple of other smaller communities have their own gas company, enjoy some very good rates. Can we come to a consensus on this? I guess we can. We're going to have to. We're going to have to find out which side of the road we want to travel down. I don't know. I would imagine that most of the cities in this state--I hope, anyway--are going to grow. And as they grow, I believe that those...the areas that they annex or the new growth should be served by those, by those publicly owned utility companies. I don't believe that this is going to affect many people in the rural areas. Who in the world is going to want to come out and lay a line out there, that is privately owned? I don't think that's going to happen. I think the big fight here is between, let's face it, MUD and any privately owned company in the city of Omaha. But I think that has started to be resolved, and I believe that we need to, we