

and the like, and I can understand that. The difficulty is this. The theory on the safety committees is not to create a bureaucratic set of hurdles that have to be met to comply with the state law. It's much more along the lines of mediation. We don't say to people when they have to mediate, how often they have to sit there, how many hours they have to sit at that chair, when they get done what they have to report. We offer people an opportunity to sit down and work things out. In the case of the farmer and the banker and the farm mediation program, we said they had to sit down, actually it was voluntary. They didn't even have to sit down, they could. And LB 90 says the same thing, mediation is a voluntary process. In the family mediation bill which Senator Ashford is bringing, the idea is not that we create a long list of bureaucratic responsibilities. Why? Because people talking about safety are talking about something of mutual interest. This is, as opposed to state sanctioned bureaucracies, heavy on litigation, things with lawyers and recording secretaries and computers and reports and filings and sending off your quarterly responses to the Department of Labor and the creation of some kind of bank of computers here in Lincoln to accept those reports. It's true, it's people creating a safety committee and creating a forum for the discussion of safety. Can it be meaningful? In the State of Oregon where this idea was passed along with a number of others, they have had worker compensation premium reductions at the same time they've had worker compensation benefits go up. That's premiums down, benefits up. One of the components they point to, safety committees. Now when the Hall/Will amendment was up, I was off the floor as were Senator Lindsay and Senator Abboud, Senator Withem, Senator Coordsen, Senator Chambers and myself. I know, you know, that this is a difficult matter and it's a tough bill. We were off the floor trying, if we could, to find some way of handling this situation. We've been given four ideas, one on the Administrative Procedures Act; one on the independent medical examiner, one on doctor choice and one in the voc rehab area. And those of us who are proponents and dealing with the opponents made counter offers, if you will, in the area of procedure, in the area of the IME, in the area of voc rehab, to try to solve the problems. We do not have...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...a shared understanding or an agreement that remains some difficulty. If there was a way to work this out, I would. What I've got is I've got a bunch of floor amendments