

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp moves to amend the Speaker's order by taking up, immediately, LB 665.

PRESIDENT: Wait. You have changed the order, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: If the body wants to vote to override the Speaker. What it is is changing the Speaker's agenda. That is what this is.

PRESIDENT: Then you have changed it?

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: No. I have allowed that this motion...to see if they want to change it. I'm not changing it.

PRESIDENT: All right. First of all, is there an objection to the change of the Speaker's order? There is. Senator....

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the motion I have is to take up 665. You may remember last week, Friday, for approximately one solid hour we debated this issue as to whether we would take it up today. On repeated votes this Legislature agreed to take up the issue of products liability at this time. At the end of the session a unanimous consent motion was made by another senator to take up 665, or to bracket it until March 6th. This morning, on your desk, you have a poem from Senator Chambers. It's about me. Since the issue involves me and this issue I would like to, in my opening on this discussion, go through the poem. On this floor, in debate over the years, I have made a very strong habit and policy of never attacking another senator's personality, or individuality, or race, or creed, or color, or personal characteristics, or motives. I have attempted, to the degree humanly possible, to deal with the issues, present my arguments and live or die on the votes that went on the basis of those arguments. The poem suggests that I was overly upset and critical and called unfair Senator Chambers as a result of his conduct, actions Friday. I was not, if you read the news article. The only thing I commented or said was that the action speaks for itself, and I think it does. So now I would like to take you through this poem and see how much of products liability is dealt with in this poem. Senator Chambers, in the poem, starts out by saying I mocked his despair after beating him Friday. I did not mock his despair and never have. Then he says that I filed a motion to bracket just before him. I, indeed, did. It was LB 331 which the Banking Committee had agreed would be bracketed indefinitely on General File. All I was doing was what we had agreed in committee. It was not a bill that had been debated for an hour that morning, and the body had voted to go in one particular direction, and then I was undoing that in a rather clever move. The next three paragraphs merely call me names, attack everything about me personally. The next paragraph says I view you senators as dull-witted sheep. If any man in this body, or woman, has called you names it has not been Johnny DeCamp. Repeatedly, in debate, I have defended your integrity and ability and said we are all equals and do all make up our own minds. The next part of the poem offends me the most. That is where he attacks my personality and discusses my voice. He says I shriek in high piercing nasal tones, and on and on. Senator Chambers, God gave me the voice I've got. God gave you the color you've got. I don't stand on this floor and call you nigger, or any other thing. I never have, and I never will.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Don't get racial here. You can change your voice, which you're doing now. Don't....