

wonder why our image is damaged. Yes, we wonder why the people are losing confidence in the Legislature and the legislative body. This is a sham and a travesty, and we all know it. Everybody in this room knows it, that this is not the answer, and this is not what the people want. But yet we close our ears, we close our ears, and we go ahead and vote our prearranged convictions.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Senator. Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I wish that I had not been a sponsor of the bottle bill, because perhaps you'd accept what I'm saying as being a little more directly to the point and not biased. I hoped that I wouldn't have to say this, lately. I took a lot of pride in being elected to this body. I think we have an important set of duties to perform here. I've watched what has happened in the last few years here, since I've been here. Frankly, ladies and gentlemen, I think we're moving in the wrong direction. I've watched the power of the lobbyists on particular issues. I've watched the hairbrain scheme, after hairbrain scheme come into this place. I've watched this Legislature and its committee systems failing. I've watched us routinely trying to write legislation on the floor. We can, on occasion, do it successfully. We cannot do it routinely. The committee systems are failing to kill bills. They are failing to adjust bills properly in committee. We are failing to hold public hearings so the people can have an input. We're taking the advise of a few people saying that they represent very large numbers of businesses across the state, when we know it's not true. Take a look at what you find in the newspapers today, and every letter to the editor column-- what they are saying about the Legislature-- what they are saying about the hairbrain schemes that one or two people in this body are bringing in day, after day, after day, after day. It is ridiculous. At the same time we're asking for a pay raise in this body. That is ridiculous too, given the current situation we have here. This body is deteriorating badly in the last few days. I could not be proud of this body yesterday. If we pass this bill with no public hearing, a hairbrain scheme that is totally ridiculous in every aspect, I cannot be proud of this body. We have a set of responsibilities, under the Constitution here, that we're to perform. We are certainly not performing it. It is hard to criticize this bill, as now amended, because one doesn't know where to start. It is ridiculous from point one to the end. It won't have an effect, it's a fraud, pure and simply. If we're not going to have a bottle bill this year, or next year, or so on, so be it. But let's not kid ourselves because the public is far smarter than we're giving them credit for. This is a bad bill. It's a bad bill. Everybody knows it. Kill it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose LB 184. I oppose the bill for the same reasons that I opposed LB 220 last year. I did not believe that the bill would be effective, that it is a tax, and that it is a smoke screen bill. The trash and the bottles and cans that are in the road ditches, along my farm, I feel will not be affected if this bill is passed. There will be just as much trash as there is now. I do not think it will be effective. It will be an increased cost for the people of the state. Therefore, I oppose the bill.