

ladies and gentlemen, four hours ago or more. You know, there's been a lot of things said about Mr. Harper. It's unfortunate if Mr. Harper and Ernie have never met. They'd like each other. They both understand the system. They both understand raw power and how to use it. They both understand how to terrorize people. Ernie does it with a smile. Ernie does it with a smile. He does. They both understand the carrot and the stick. Now, Ernie gives you a little more of the stick and a little less of the carrot, but you know what? We talked a little while back about what do you want to make the system work. I don't know. Senator Chambers, for many years, we passed, a number of years ago, a bill to repeal the death penalty. Might just be, Senator Chambers, we'd make a deal with you; 25 votes to repeal the death penalty, guaranteed veto proof. Maybe he'd pull his amendments. I don't know if he would or not. He doesn't make many deals but...but he understands the system. He understands how it works. He understands more than any of us there comes a breaking point. In this body, on this floor, each of us knows there is a time, as the song goes, there's a time to hold and a time to fold. We've gone past the time to fold a bit. We've gone past the time to fold because there hasn't been enough time in consensus, but, as each hour grinds on by, as each minute follows each minute, we're going to find more and more are going to wonder what in the world do we do? Well, we work with the system. We amend the bills. We offer amendments and we reconsider those amendments, and then we discuss it and we debate it. I think Senator Chambers is showing some strength. He got three votes this time; Senator Dierks and Senator Rupp. I don't know whether they have...if they have a particular interest in cats or not, but in any case he picked up a little extra strength. Not quite 25 votes but then who knows, even (inaudible) he's long ahead of us and he has got a lot of amendments. If that's true, Senator Chambers, you've only got about another 22 or 23 to go and you're going to have a majority, and it won't be very long that this body is going to say, just give Ernie what he wants; take all the amendments, package them up, give them in a bundle, put a silver ribbon around it with a nice bow and a carnation on it, and then maybe Ernie will let us go, set our people free. As Ernie would say, we could get back to the serious drinking and dining around this place and forget the routine work that makes this job so odorous. You know, after all, if we don't get this package put together, Curtis will be closed before we ever get to the end of the session; the fossils at Morrill Hall will deteriorate, the dead ones, as I said before; other things will happen. I wouldn't be surprised if Senator Langford's out writing her