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April 23, 1999 LB 704

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker, are there any lights after mine? Okay, then I will waive my time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Okay. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Microphone malfunction) ...let my time be running.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Your time is running. That's your third time running even.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the suggestion made by Senator Stuhr I think is going to be accepted in terms of converting this effort into a study resolution and the same groups and entities can be invited to participate, but there won't be the creation of a commission at this late stage in the session, and especially by taking a bill, which nobody felt was important enough to prioritize, and adding it to LB 704. Another reason I'm opposed to doing this at this point, I am opposed to this commission on its own, but as we get nearer to the end of the session, there's going to be the attempt to do what we call Christmas treeing, and for the new senators, that means all these bills that could not make it on their own will be added to other bills. Last session I was just a mean guy, Senator Smith, I was just chopping down all the Christmas trees. Unlike George Washington, nobody had to ask who cut down the cherry tree? They knew who had an axe in each hand. Paul Bunyan couldn't be as effective as I was. But this session I don't have that total opposition but I am going to be looking and evaluating the bills that are attempted to be added to others. There have been some efforts to add things to LB 704 but none of them was outrageous, none of them, in my opinion, was unreasonable so I didn't even comment on them. But when something as substantive as this comes along, then it's not going to be quite as easy to get it done. I'm not saying that the mere fact that a substantive amendment is to be offered that I'll be opposed to it, but if I am opposed to it, then I will give my reasons as to why I wouldn't like to see it added to a bill way down in the session. There are going to be situations arising, where as happened earlier today, the administration itself may want to bring a bill back from Final Reading to make a correction or add something which is deemed to be necessary.