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LB 44

Senator Chambers did this...did his original amendment. As we do with colleagues, he came to me, said he was going to introduce the amendment. He explained to me how he saw the problem. He talked about this circumvention of the Constitution of the state of Nebraska and the circumvention of what it is this body has prescribed by law shall be done with regard to the forfeiture of monies. And I said, that's an interesting issue. And being one of those members of the body who believes in public debate and is not afraid to have a new subject come up here and be discussed and see what we can all learn together, I said, that will be an interesting discussion. I didn't commit. I said, I don't know whether I'll vote for the amendment or not. Well, you can imagine I'm a lot more inclined. This is a legitimate debate. We cannot engage in this situation, and I'll send this message loud and clear. As Chairman of your Judiciary Committee, I am becoming concerned that sometimes law enforcement...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...thinks it is the law, and sometimes it thinks it's above the law, and sometimes it thinks it ought to have everything it asks for, and that isn't a part of our representative democracy, and that isn't the balance that we are supposed to bring on behalf of the people here. And we are not talking about something that is insignificant because, as I began to try and evaluate what this was all about, I find out we're talking about, in one year, a million and a half dollars in round numbers, in practically every year several hundred thousand dollars. And I thought Senator Chambers was unusually placid in his opening on the amendment, so I'll try and make it a little more dramatic. This is money that you have said will be handled in a particular way,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...and the people of....

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Dwite Pedersen, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I relinquish