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April 30, 2001      LB 305, 543

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then you're...well, let me ask you and not try to put words in your mouth. How do you feel about the amendment that I have pending now?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I want to stick with the amount the Appropriations Committee recommended.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How do you feel about my amendment?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I oppose it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. That's all I wanted to hear. I don't know why it doesn't surprise me. Members of the Legislature, if you adopt my amendment you might be putting people in a position to realize that this is not the only thing that will be available for teachers. It is something like a compromise which works against me and only to your benefit. I have heard more people on this floor tell why they're not going to support LB 305 that my desperate friends over here, "Circe" and "Pandora", hope against hope that something magical or miraculous is going to take place and that LB 305, with all of the jellybeans in the basket, will pass this body, and I don't think so. I might take the approach of trying to pluck one jellybean out at a time, or simply slice the bottom off the basket and let everything fall out at once. There is plenty of time for us to decide on what the strategy or the tactics will be. But I can assure "Pandora" and "Circe" that LB 305 is not going to get across this floor in its present condition. So are we going to lop off two arms, two legs and an ear and a nostril and half a lip, or just what? This amendment that I'm offering is reasonable. Right now, this program has nothing in it. The Governor, from what Senator Thompson told us, is willing to fund it next year. You put things off until next year when they're unpleasant. Maybe the economy of the state, "Senator Pandora", will improve sufficiently so that things that are not done this year will be done next year. If all of us are lucky, the whole world will come to an end before next year and we won't have this or any other problem to contend with. Everything will be taken care of. But for those of us who don't expect the world to end, who don't expect to croak before next year, although we