

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 2, 2001

LB 305

motion, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's all I want to ask you. Members of the Legislature, you got to know when to stop asking questions. (Laughter) I've given this example before. A guy was on trial for having bitten off a man's ear, so the lawyer is questioning an individual who is the state's key witness, and the lawyer asked the man, did you see my client bite this man's ear off? And the man said, no, so he should have stopped but he got arrogant. He said, then how can you sit there and say that my client bit this man's ear off? The guy said, because I saw him spit it out. You have to know when to stop asking questions. That...I saw Senator Erdman kind of look over here. He is teachable. He catches on quickly and he is very engaging and delightful to me when we have our little exchanges. And as the session wears on and succeeding sessions, we will have more conversations unless Senator Erdman decides he wants to leave us and get a seat on the...what's the board that that bad guy just quit? The Public Service Commission. He may decide that he'd like to seek his fortune in a much greener pasture. I think he'd probably make about four times as much money and do about one-third as much work. And you don't have to do that much, because nobody is watching you. But, anyway, on this particular reconsideration motion I do not think we will hurt anything in terms of the bill's status or its chances. By adopting this reconsideration motion, it will demonstrate that those who keep saying they want to do something for teachers are willing to reach out and take hold of any alternative that offers a possibility. People can differ as to the effect of any amendment. My intent is to hurt the bill, but what difference does it make what my intention is if to vote this way serves your purpose? We both get what we want in the short run. This vote is not dispositive of the bill. It will not determine the bill's fate. It gives you another tool in your tool box. And since you control the tool box you can discard it whenever you want to. If you don't take this, you have not helped the bill. You leave it where it was prior to our discussing this amendment. If you adopt it, you have not weakened the bill. You have all of those items that Senator Raikes and the Education Committee saw fit to include in the committee amendment. If anybody had had a question of me during this