

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 31, 2005 LB 261

Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Schimek, advancement of LB 261. Senator Schimek waives her opportunity to speak. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, sometimes when the debate is extended, lazy reporters, inattentive senators, and the misinformed and uninformed public will attach the term "filibuster" because they have no understanding or there is laziness or there's misinformation or false information. Many times, extended debate is necessary to inform and educate the legislators, and since our proceedings are carried I believe on the Internet, I'm not up on those esoteric, technological advances, but I've been told that what goes on here is spread through cyberspace all over the universe. So sometimes it's necessary to educate and inform the public. I have never said that a person's attempt to use an extended debate a filibuster. I don't call them that. I say extended debate. And there are senators who take very seriously certain issues, and they will not be put off because their colleagues want to hurry up and get through so they can get to another bill, or in some cases go to lunch, in other cases go to a dinner. We need to stop filling the role of "Captain Hungry" and "Lieutenant Lunch-hunter" and realize that when we come to the floor of the Legislature, there's a job we have to do, and some take the job more seriously than others, which is what you'll find throughout life in every avenue or venture. Somebody said, all rivers and most people are crooked because they follow the path of least resistance. Well, for myself, I believe in launching very strong and strenuous resistance to anything that I believe is inappropriate. I have been listening to this debate in my office because I had other matters that I had to attend to. But just because it does not impact directly anybody in my district, and maybe nobody in Douglas County, it impacts people in this state. I have seen too great an inclination, even on this floor of the Legislature, that says we will decide the validity of an issue by the numbers. If I can get 33 votes, I'm right, no matter what, and I will shut everybody up. When 33 percent of any constituency has concerns about a matter, that is a large enough percentage to take