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April 6, 2005 LB 548

division, and the Bourne division. All right. The final thing is I understand that I am being totally incompetent with regard to recess on the last day, that it is the tradition that we work through the lunch hour. Well, traditions are meant to be changed, and it seems to me if we reach an...a good stop pointing at approximately noon on the last day of the week, when you have all worked as hard as you have worked, then it's time to quit. And so whoever I have confused by not going until 1:00 or 1:30 or 2:00, I'm sorry, but we're going to quit at or about noon unless there's a good progressive reason to go forward. Thank you all very much for your time and your attention and your work.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Speaker Brashear, for the information. We appreciate it. Mr. Speaker...I'm sorry. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 548, it's a bill by Senator Jensen. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 18, referred to Health and Human Services, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0735, Legislative Journal page 812.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Jensen, you're recognized to open on LB 548.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, this is the Jensen division and I'll proceed with the introduction of LB 548. Actually, looking back over my tenure and looking back over the decades that I can remember in the Legislature, I really believe that we passed monumental legislation in 1998 with the development of the Health Care Cash Fund, in taking the tobacco settlement dollars, which really was about \$1,165,000,000, and putting that into...stretched out over 25 years, of course, but put that into an annuity, if you would, or an endowment, if you would, but into a cash fund so that as the dollars flowed in we might spend a little bit of the principal but primarily the interest to fund healthcare costs for up to the next century or as until such a date as the Legislature should decide to change the process that we set forth in LB 692. So we took the tobacco settlement dollars. We