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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2006      LB 445, 994

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Further discussion on the Smith amendment, AM2890? Senator Erdman, followed by Senator Mines and three others. Is Senator Erdman present? He's on his way. I can see the hand, but I can't see anything else.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. (Laugh) As a seasoned veteran of the Health Committee, it's been awhile since we've had a scenario somewhat of what's before us this evening, and usually what happens is, we have a bill that's been introduced, those that have concerns on either side sit down with those that are supporting the legislation, and generally it's done, as Senator Bourne has pointed out, either directly with the Chairman or with the committee staff, and those issues are worked out to the best of their ability, to where there can be accommodations there made. And generally, what the result of that is, is that a situation where each side gives a little bit to accomplish what's in the best interests of all. This scenario is unique. This scenario is probably the result of a number of things. It's probably--and I can't say specifically, but this is my best analysis--it's probably a breakdown of communication that has led us to this situation. I fully concur that in the event that an industry or a group or an individual senator would intentionally back out on their word or intentionally undermine the process that was intended to accomplish some level of compromise, that that should not be stood for. And I would expect that if I was that individual, that you would hold me that account, as well. There are those who have come to Lincoln and are here to discuss with us the policy in LB 445 on both sides of this issue--the PTs that are supportive of AM2754, and there are those on the chiropractic side that have concerns. And there are things going on in addition to the legislation that has brought concerns to this debate that ordinarily probably wouldn't be here. I back up, and I think about what Senator Bourne said and, you know, look, if somebody did this to me and I was in this scenario, I'd probably act just like what Senator Jensen is. I would be distraught, I would be frustrated. And the amount of time that's invested by the committee Chairs and their staff on legislation to try to