

in favor of this for that reason are not concerned about the potential precedent that may be set by sending individuals out to gather us back from whatever duties we may have, whether they be personal, whether they be business related, whether they be constituents in our district, if we're willing to allow that power to the other members of the body, I think it is a dangerous precedent. I would also point out and I can recall in earlier discussions about this particular rule which we've had during rule discussions that there are interpretations of this rule, that this only applies to those members who are unexcused, that Section 4, paragraph (a) indicates that we may be excused, and that if we are excused then that doesn't account. If we are unexcused then rule (b)...section (b) comes to take precedence. I think this is a dangerous precedent and I would hope that regardless of what your view may be on LB 7, you know, there have been many times when I've been on the losing side of votes when had we had another couple of people who were doing something else here, I would have won. I hope we don't get in the position where every time somebody loses a vote in here that they send the State Patrol and the Sergeant at Arms out to bring senators back because that is a dangerous way of handling our legislative business.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I have the sense that people think the sky is falling for some reason all of a sudden. The sky is falling! The sky is falling! Do you really think this is nearly the most important issue that we've dealt with this year, much less in the last 13 years? There hasn't been such a motion as this for 13 years and the last time we had it involved the expenditures of a great deal of money. This issue is important to a few people but I don't think it's anywhere near on the scale that this motion would indicate. Not only that, but the sequence of events, I don't know how this psychology is developing that, my God, we need to do something. If you pass this bill, in my opinion, the Supreme Court is going to tell you that it's unconstitutional and send us back to work on it again. If you don't pass this bill, they may say that...they may...they may take it into their own hands. I doubt it. There's a whole lot of work involved in doing that. They don't want to do that. It's very likely that they will say, yes, you're right, what we meant is that you need to do it next session. I think that's the most likely outcome. But I just don't understand why we are losing our courage here, why this has become a matter of such