

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, to speak to the Pedersen amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, since I'm not rich enough to provide assistance to all the people who need help, I have to consider this amendment to be something positive compared to what is offered by the bill without this amendment. This is like that parable of the rich man and Lazarus, where the rich men, that's you all, fared sumptuously every day. You had a table so covered with food that it groaned, but there was a poor man, named Lazarus, who fought with the dogs for the scraps that fell off you all's well-stacked table. So I'm appreciative if we can get enough votes that the people in this Legislature are so kind-hearted, so compassionate, so generous, so Christlike that they're willing to throw some scraps out during the last three months of a poor woman's pregnancy. That really changes my attitude toward the Legislature, Senator Day. I might even start coming down here for the prayers. The love of Christ has gotten into those little cracks in these hard hearts, harder than the heart of the Grinch, and opened it up and I can just see compassion flooding out of those hearts and cascading over us today. I feel a warmth rising, Senator Lindsay, from my toes to the top of my head, almost, almost you all have persuaded me to be a Christian, almost but not quite. And that reminds me of something that I read, brothers and sisters, in the New Testament, where there was...Paul was brought before Agrippa in chains, or one of those fellows, and he was doing all this talking, and Agrippa listened to him. And some guy said, Paul, much learning has made thee mad, meaning insane. They used words more carefully in those old biblical days. And Agrippa said, no, he's not mad, then he made the remark, almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I wish it wasn't almost, I wish you were altogether as I am, except for these chains. They were so poetic and considerate in those days. So this afternoon, this morning I began to see what was welling up in King Agrippa. There is a bomb in Gilead, there is kindness in the Nebraska Legislature. And, Senator Lindsay, you've been here a lot of years and have heard me excoriate this body about its cruelty and so forth, well, if this vote goes the right way maybe that will mollify me to some extent, maybe it will tone down the types of criticisms I express. Maybe I'll just become a knot on a log, like many of my colleagues are, and the people in my district will never see or hear from me again. I'm not willing to bind myself to all those things right now,