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LB 770

SENATOR HARTNETT: I...probably, but I think I would like to have the bill advanced, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Members of the Legislature, why have...I guess since amendments have been adopted, the people in the bill drafting department are going to go ahead and print up some kind of amendment whether we move the bill from this point or not, I guess. But I don't see any point in doing that. But I'll tell you what, I'm kind of put off by what the Legislature's doing on this bill. It would be better to fight the issue one way the other, and those who don't like it be as honest as those of us who support it and try to kill it. Senator Vrtiska said that his intent is to have it killed. So you all, the rest of you want to just kill it by degrees. It's a feeding tube. You just want to ease the tube out a little bit at a time, just a little bit at a time. Then you finally get it all the way out, then you take a hypodermic needle and inject a little bit of nutrient into the person, just enough to barely keep the organism alive. And then at the very end, you take away all life support, and you take a hatchet and bury it in the head of the patient. Why should we play with it? Why should we drag it out like that? This is a worthless piece of paper, LB 770. I haven't heard anybody on this floor stand and explain how it can be deemed a rational legislative act to give a proposed bill a delayed operative date and then agree that you're not even going to pass it. That makes no sense, even by legislative illogic. The Legislature is getting "worse" and "worse" and "worse". I'm watching it deteriorate. I'm watching it take place before my very eyes. But as the old man of the Legislature, I'm going to speak against it, and I'm going to work against it. This bill is absolutely worthless. And for the Legislature to engage in the charade of moving it through the process is a demeaning of the legislative process. While we're debating, anything goes, practically. But then we're going to reach a point where the process itself is implicated in what we're doing. And when we begin to degenerate the process in the way we will with this bill, then I don't accept it. Now other people probably have a different point of view from mine. They feel that it's perfectly all right and appropriate to take a bill, a proposed law, and treat it in this manner, a bill you have no intention