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LB 267

against their amendments. They got that. They can't get anything else from me. I learn things by sitting in this Legislature and watching people operate. Now when I watch Senator Landis operate, I'm not surprised because Senator Landis works on a lot of issues. He combines differing ideas, pulls together warring groups, and in a sense, that is the Landis principle. But when I see people who on specific issues profess to have principles, and then they say let them go because there's something that I want, they have just taken themselves out of the realm of principle as far as I'm concerned, and I don't deal with them on that basis anymore. I deal with them as utilitarians, as people who do not the principled thing but the expedient thing. And as a result of that, they are just ordinary lobbyists to me, and I may talk to them and I may not, depending on whether on that particular day at that particular time, I am agreeing to talk to lobbyists. This is a typical liquor bill. Usually bad bills come out of that liquor committee that obliges the liquor industry, the tobacco industry, and the gambling industry. But now a majority of the legislators have become complicit and this is a liquor industry bill agreed to by a majority of the members, at least up to this point. But I don't agree with it. I have not given agreement to it, and I will not agree to it. I just haven't determined yet how strenuous and determined my opposition to the bill will be. I don't know whether the liquor industry should pay here or pay later, but I think it is good in a way to have things happen that happen because it reveals something to me about people and their principles. Many times individuals and groups come before committees where I sit as a member, and I may not agree with them, but in my mind, there's a little room that says that these people really believe in what they're talking about so they get the benefit of the doubt from me. But once the door to that room is locked, they don't get into it any more. They're just like any other lobbyist whose only goal is to get adopted whatever his or her principal hired him or her to do. There are many ways to hire people. The term "hireling" when Jesus used it didn't just mean somebody who is paid necessarily, it meant somebody who didn't have the fire in the belly and the conviction necessary to carry out an agreed upon task. When danger came or opposition arose,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.