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LB 267

I'm not going to offer any amendments to this bill. I'm not going to offer any motions. But I think I do have to make a few comments about the bill and what it signifies to me. If this bill passes, it's not going to solve any problems it is designed to address, in my opinion. If the bill does not pass, the earth is not going to start wobbling on its orbit, move closer to the sun, and be swallowed up. The bill is not going to make that much difference, from where I sit. But it means more to other people, obviously, than it means to me. I'm talking about the bill itself. What is valuable in all of this, as far as I'm concerned, is what it taught me about various people. Now, I watched the Legislature...and it had to be by a majority vote...reject the book, changing the "shall" to "may," rejecting the idea of allowing private schools of the variety described in the amendment to have licenses to sell liquor. When I see people change on these issues, I believe they can change on anything. It's just a matter of finding out what to say to them to make them lay their principles, if that's what they call them, aside, and do that which is expedient. Old Senator Landis, there, I have to point out, young Senator Hilgert, even younger Senator Bourne, are not in the category of persons I'm discussing, because these are issues...there might be some principle involved, but it's not that kind where it makes them a cut above anybody or any of that. They just like to do what they do. But those people who make a living and a profession out of certain things, a little different standard of judgment has to be applied. And the standard is applied, not out of malice, but because of the way they have projected themselves and their image, the way they have dealt with other people. Now, when it comes to being straight-laced on things like liquor and tobacco and drugs, you probably won't find anybody straighter laced than I am. But it's not accompanied by that harsh attitude of saying, punish people who stumble into this. My amendment did not say, in addition to the 30 lashes, cut that right hand off so they can't lift that drink to the mouth, cut their lips off so that they will have no place to cradle the container, and cut their tongue out so they cannot swallow well. I didn't say any of that, but there are people, if they could get away with doing that, would do it now, because that used to be done by highly religious people. Then when the heathens took over the government, they cut out all that religious punishment. Thank God the heathens are ruling today. But our rule is about