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LB 661

them, and there's going to be a fourth test before the end of the year. And so unless they've passed the tests, and for the political subdivisions and the state, unless we've used all reasonable efforts, you won't get any protection from this bill at all. So it's not a wide open sort of thing, but if you've done what you're supposed to be doing to protect from Y2K, this ought to give you some protection, some relief, and try to keep from some catastrophic and some vexing litigation. I, again, want to thank Senator Hudkins. She was kind enough to declare this as her personal priority bill and I guess, using the words of Senator Hudkins, we really can't wait till next year to pass this bill. So, thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Time. Senator Wickersham, to speak to the advancement of LB 661.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I...the Y2K issue has been an extremely interesting one to me, not because specifically of the liability issue that is addressed in Senator Kristensen's bill, but because in this day and age when we have so much capacity to analyze and to be thoughtful about issues and how things are going to work, we still have the people who make a very, very fundamental decision very early on in a process, and it goes unnoticed for a very, very, very long time, and then, all of a sudden, becomes the most critical decision that had been made in the last 20 years. Whoever that initial programmer was that decided all we needed was two digits, and they did it for a good reason, they did it because they didn't have enough memory capacity in their little silicone chips, and they wanted to conserve computing power and ability, and they made that decision, thought it was the right decision at the time, forgot about it, probably slept real well at night, comfortable they had made the right decision. The people that made that decision, if they're...when they were...if they're still alive and I think most of them were in about 1994, 1993, that became aware of what the implications of their decision were, then they must have been a little bit more uncomfortable with it. And the people who came along and actually identified the issue must have felt real satisfied with themselves because they thought, my gosh, I found the thing that's the most important thing that is going to happen in the year 2000, and I've got to run out and I've got to tell everybody about it and