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March 22, 2000 LB 171

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Landis, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR LANDIS: Seeing things in absolute terms, let me put it that your amendment has as much rationale as LB 171 does in my estimation and would meet exactly the same fate as far as my voting choices. So I wouldn't pick yours out for a particular amount of abuse. I'm just sort of an equal opportunity "no" for about everything, including your idea, too.

SENATOR PREISTER: Okay. In other words, you're an equal opportunity destroyer.

SENATOR LANDIS: Yeah, pretty much, yeah. (Laughter)

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Janssen, your light was on also. Did you wish to... Senator Janssen waives. Senator Chambers, did you wish to speak to the Beutler amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, this is the point where I think I should retreat to the scriptures. There is a place where Jesus said, I would that you were hot or cold, but since you are neither hot nor cold, but rather lukewarm, I shall spew you out of my mouth. So there comes a point where trying to be neither fish nor fowl, not on the right side of the fence or on the left side of the fence is not going to pan out although this is a principle we're dealing with, not in a moral sense, strictly speaking, but one that talks about fairness. I don't think you can say I'm going to be half fair and half unfair. When it comes to being fair, you either are or you are not. There are any numbers of ways to draw a line that is wavy, crooked, or not straight, any number. But there is only one way to draw a straight line. Any deviation from that and it is not straight. This is one of those situations where the line must be straight. What Senator Beutler's amendment would do is similar to a person... let me be the person. Somebody has stuck a knife six inches into my back. And Senator Beutler wants to help me so he says, I'll pull the knife out three inches.