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LB 1217

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the motion to override, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I fought and lost in the past the battle over whether or not we could break out individual parts from the package that the Appropriations Committee has given us so we will take them all as a package. In a way this might be the way to cobble together enough votes to get an override, but I'm opposed to the mall, the mall material. They have some kind of cop memorial in that, and if they would show the cop in the posture of stopping a Latino or a black person, based on race, one that tells the truth, I would support that. If they were going to deal with the way the cops in Omaha do, they would show a black man being shot under very questionable circumstances, I would support that. But I believe this is supposed to be something to honor them as though they are paragons of law enforcement, and I'm opposed to that. Since it's a part of this package, I'm going to vote against it. So, I'm sure they can get the 30 votes without mine for this package. I have a bone to pick with the university, though. Here we are looking at the university's budget. The Governor has vetoed out over \$1 million. Senator Wehrbein has led the Appropriations Committee into suggesting that we override an appropriation to the Sheldon Art Gallery, which maybe you ought to, because it's \$13,000 less than what the university was going to offer a coach for a basketball team. He's only asking for \$987,000 here. (Coughing) Nine hundred... (laugh) I've got to make sure this is clear... \$987,000 here, it almost sent Senator Beutler to the stone orchard. (Laughter) Nine hundred eighty-seven thousand is all that they are asking for the entire Sheldon Art Gallery, and for a coach of a basketball team, they offer \$1 million, \$1 million. No coach is worth that much. Nobody in this state earns that much money. The Legislature collectively probably barely earns that much in a year. So it indicates to me that there is something out of sync or out of joint over there at the university. The Athletic Department runs off on its own, and while there are political ramifications associated with any expenditures by the university, those political considerations really come into play at the time that vetoes have been announced by the Governor and when the Legislature is going to be asked to override those