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LB 1217

SENATOR CHAMBERS: To whom is tomorrow promised? Which of us knows that we're going to be here tomorrow for sure? Could we croak before tomorrow? Is tomorrow promised to any of us?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: There are...there are 1.6 million people in the state. I doubt that they will all die at once, and we should expect that there will be some tomorrow for Nebraska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Speaking of those of us in the Legislature, could all of us be corpses tomorrow? Could we?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: We could. It'd take a little time to reorganize and get things going but...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Laughter) Thank you, although some might think things were better off because at least no harm could be done and the first principle is, first do no harm. Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Members of the Legislature, I have never been one of those who felt, with all due respect to the members of the Appropriations Committee, that because they are on that committee, they suddenly become wiser than everybody else. That's why I had made the motion in the past to divide the question. Often when we take these packages, what we do is an exercise in futility. This package ought to be voted down and we ought to take each item on its own. We've had a chance to vent. We've had a chance to go nowhere very rapidly. And now we're going to come back to where we could have been at first, if the question could have been divided. As I said before, I lost that battle. The Chair would rule that it's not divisible. We'd have an argument about whether to overrule the Chair. The Legislature, showing its characteristic courage and spine, would not overrule the Chair and we'd go on arguing about the package again. Then we wouldn't get 30 votes to take the whole package and we're where we should have been at the first place where each item...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that somebody thinks ought to be overridden will be offered. Because there are things in this package that I don't think have the same high priority as others within the package and certainly there are some outside the package that