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FLOOR DEBATE

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Senator Mines, is walking between those two rows of people with a large, very lightweight basket on his shoulders. In fact, the material from which it is made is so light, he cannot even feel the weight of it, and if you set it on the scale, it does not register. So he starts to walk, and the first person throws in a pebble, second person throws in a pebble, third person, and right down the line. The first few pebbles don't do anything in terms of pressing Senator Mines down. But as he starts getting farther from Lincoln and closer to York...not much closer, but every step from Lincoln brings him a step closer to York...the weight begins to take its toll. The sun begins to beat down on him mercilessly. And pretty soon, his back bends a little. Then it bends a bit more. Then, the next thing he knows, he has to stop and get his breath. And they say, oh, you can't stop, you got to keep moving. He says, well, I can't walk under this load. That's what you've got hands and knees for, but you got to keep moving. So he drops to his hands and knees. The basket is very large and will accommodate many more pebbles. The pebbles continue to be thrown in the basket. Then they reach a weight which Senator Mines no longer can carry, and he falls under the weight. But pebbles continue to be thrown in, and he is crushed. Is there collective guilt? Each person says, I'm not responsible; I put one pebble in there; anybody can carry a pebble. The first person says, if there is guilt, I have none, because at the time I threw the pebble in the basket, only mine was there. And the last person, who tossed the pebble which, when it fell, was the amount that broke the camel's back, so to speak, and that person says, you cannot blame me, because had not all those other people put their pebbles in,...

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...mine would have been inconsequential. And those in the middle say, it's obvious that we're not to blame, because he was able to bear up under the weight when we put our pebbles in. When you have a society like this one, faced with an economy like this one, where the school board takes a bit, the school district, the fire hydrant tax takes a bit, the street tax takes a bit, sales tax takes a bit, income tax, state