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LB 303

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, do you have any announcements, reports?

CLERK: No, no announcements or reports, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, state where we were when we recessed for lunch.

CLERK: Senator Brown had an amendment pending to the Transportation Committee amendments to LB 303.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Okay, thank you. (Visitors introduced.) The speaking order for the Brown amendment is Senator Brown, Senators Erdman, Mossey, Baker, Schimek, Raikes, Price, Janssen, Bourne, Cunningham, Aguilar, and Quandahl. Senator Brown, on your amendment.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, we've had a sort of circuitous discussion about this amendment, and I want to say that I think that Senator Smith has tried very hard to...somebody in speaking this morning talked about libertarianism and I think that Senator Smith has tried very hard to put together something that would address some of the concerns. But one of the things that he said this morning in response to this amendment I found very interesting. He said that the reason that he was against this amendment is that it would require people to pay \$250 per month for the long-term healthcare insurance, and yet he wants us to make a decision today that we will take that risk upon the taxpayers of the state of Nebraska. Someone of my colleagues said, well, we pay everyone's everything, and that has become true. I agree with some of the things that Senator Bourne said about that our greater issue with long-term care is those individuals that are spending down their assets. But I don't know that that is a reason to look at this aspect and to say, okay, one is more significant than the other but to ignore the significance of this, especially in light of some of the data, insurance companies...we let insurance companies charge more to individuals who have preexisting conditions, who have...who may use tobacco. The reason that that is true is because they are assuming a greater risk. But in this circumstance, we are