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FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2003

LB 303

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does not cease and I do raise the call. Back to discussion of the Brashear amendment itself, AM1198, to the committee amendments. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I was just looking at a piece written by a man named Charles Dickens. This piece was titled by him, A Christmas Carol. The main character was a fellow named Scrooge. He was approached by some people who were interested around Christmastime in getting donations to help the less fortunate, and Scrooge's response when a...when...this comment was made. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comfort, sir. That was addressed to Scrooge. Scrooge's response: Are there no prisons? Plenty of prisons, said the gentleman, laying down the pen again. And the union workhouses, demanded Scrooge, are they still in operation? They are still, returned the gentleman. I wish I could say they were not. The treadmill and the poor laws are in full vigor then, said Scrooge. Both very busy, sir. Members of the Legislature, I know...I hope Senators...Senator "Scrooge's" amendment is offered for the purpose of instruction, but it would be unconscionable for this Legislature to adopt an amendment such as this. You can use a stick to try to compel the public or the citizens to behave the way the government wants them to behave, but if somebody is disobedient, that disobedience does not justify the state in taking a position which is immoral, inhumane, totally insensitive. When I was at Creighton, I had a class. They called it philosophy, but it was really theology. This young lady was in the class, and the priest who was teaching gave an example. This little boy was sent to the store to get some milk. He played along the way so he was slow getting home. He ran as fast as he could. He tripped and broke the milk. His mother told him, if you do that again I'm going to kill you. The same thing happened a second time. So the third time he was going to be sent, the mother said, I'm not kidding; if you break that milk bottle and spill that milk, I'm going to kill you. This time after he broke the milk the mother was true to her word and she killed the little boy. There was a message the priest was trying to get across and he wondered if anybody picked it up, so he asked what is the message or lesson in this example? So the young lady raised her hand and the