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LB 759

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Thompson. (Visitors introduced.) The Chair would now recognize Senator Maxwell, to be followed by Senators Redfield, Hartnett, Landis, Jensen, Bourne, Brashear, Connealy, and Cunningham. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise not to speak on the Thompson amendment, at least not yet or not in this turn. I have an observation related to the Quandahl amendment from yesterday. I agree with Senator Brashear's point from yesterday. We need to work this bill. We need to make progress. So I do not intend to introduce some new tangent of debate. I just want to make this observation before we move too far away from the Quandahl amendment. I'm going to make a reference to Rule 6, Section 3, subsection (g), if anyone is interested in following along. As you flip for that, let me just tell you what my thoughts are. I registered as not voting yesterday on the Quandahl amendment. You probably recall, the amendment would have removed cigarette tax funding from eight or nine programs. That's a very substantial proposal and one of the points made in the debate was to do something like this without the public getting a crack at it in a public hearing is not the way we do business around here. And I was persuaded by that argument. The more substantive the proposal is, the more necessary it is that the public ought to get a crack at it. But I got to thinking about how something in that didn't seem to make sense in a system that relies on the free flow, the free exchange of ideas. And let me just step back for a moment and just ask you to think about your experience of life. Whether it's making legislation or working a business plan or a game plan in sports or raising children, most of the important things that we do in life, what we discover is the best ideas on how to do things often are produced in the midst of doing it or living it, that the grinding and the churning of life unearths something or produces something, or new people or new thoughts are brought into the conversation. This connects with that connects with that and then you realize, you have your epiphany and discover, oh, that's the way we ought to do this. Quite often that happens in life. And so to bring it back to legislation and the Quandahl amendment, I thought, well, now we're in a strange pickle here. Apparently somebody could have the best idea in the history of the Legislature and yet we can't