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LB 602

SENATOR BEUTLER: Would Senator Smith yield to questions?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Smith, would you yield, please?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Smith, I, too, like everybody else, is against reproductive cloning, I think because it just initially, for one thing, it initially just smacks as wrong. But I wanted to talk about reproductive cloning a little bit just to explore my own feelings about it and to explore your background and reading in this area. Reproductive cloning...and, by the way, I certainly agree with Senator Foley's idea that it is the job of the Legislature to generally define the ethics of society, including the ethics of science. Having said that, I take it, Senator, that you're against reproductive cloning also.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And why are you against reproductive cloning?

SENATOR SMITH: In addition to the problems of creating, effectively, another human being with an identical genetic code, I mean that speaks to greater volumes of problems that it would propose in society, notwithstanding the difficulty of science to even get that far.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, let me be more specific. I suppose one reason you could be against it is because it's ineffective, because it doesn't work right now.

SENATOR SMITH: True.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But I guess I'm somewhat dismissive of that in the sense that all pure research is, at the beginning, ineffective. I have no doubt in my mind but that if this society chose to do so we could soon reach a level of effectiveness in cloning that would be equal to the natural process. Do you disagree with that?