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LB 320

contribution...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...is inappropriate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on the Beutler amendment. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Beutler amendment, AM1780, to LB 320. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Bourne, Brashear, Beutler, and Stuhr. Senator Chambers, on AM1780.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when it comes to retirement matters, I am a tyro. I am naive. I'm a babe in the woods. What Senator Beutler says has really caught my attention. The chart that he has given, when it talks about defined benefit plan contribution, has caught my attention. I'm going to listen to the discussion. I know judges in Nebraska probably have one of the best retirement plans in the universe and they're not doing too badly on salary either. I have to say something at this point which is not exactly a mea culpa. People interpret that term to be an apology. I don't mean this as an apology. I mean it as an assumption of responsibility and blame for having committed a colossal blunder this session. I did not inform myself on these issues. I took positions based on lack of information and knowledge. For somebody who prides himself on thoroughly studying a situation, understanding it and basing a decision on the informed judgment that should result from that process, it is not easy and certainly is not pleasant to stand here and acknowledge that I have committed a blunder more colossal than that committed by anybody I've seen since I've been in the Legislature. I have really been critical of other senators. I have excoriated senators. I have ridiculed senators. I have taunted the body. And during those times when I was doing it, I meant it and I take none of that back now. But what I'm saying is that when you give it, you've got to be able to take it. And I should not judge anybody more harshly or more mercilessly than I judge myself. There is no excuse for any senator, I don't care who he or she is, and that especially applies to me. There is no excuse for any senator taking a strong position on an