

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 16, 2003

LB 208

strip out everything except what he wanted in this bill, then let the Transportation Committee do its recodification. It's one thing if you're going to rewrite, for example, the entire criminal code. It's another thing to pitch and patch with what you call a recodification, and you do a bit here and you do a bit there. Then, in the middle of this mix, you introduce a brand new concept that does not stand well on its own and certainly does not plug in appropriately to the rewrite you're doing. Then you ask the Legislature to adopt it and pass it as a favor to you. No favors are going to be done here by me. This is the law, if you pass it. This is what's going to be applied to every citizen in this state, on these highways. It's going to be...have to be interpreted and applied by county attorneys, administered by judges, acted under by police officers. The senators don't understand what they're doing. How many senators have stood on this floor and said they understand? Even the introducer doesn't understand it. The Chairman of the Transportation Committee doesn't understand it. And now you all don't understand my frustration? Maybe I do know too much. Maybe I do understand too much. Maybe I do read too much. Maybe I do pay too much attention. And maybe I take too seriously my job as a state senator. Maybe I ought to come here to just be a lunch hunter, and somebody to raise money with the help of Walt Radcliffe and the other lobbyists, and party, party, and go to all these free meals, and have people pat me on my shoulder because I'm a state senator, invite me to these little teas and coffees in the neighborhood, and I walk the dog and play like I'm somebody special, then I come down to the Legislature and will say I will vote in favor of a 54-page amendment that I haven't even read, and if I read a part of it, I don't understand it. You wouldn't tell that to these people you're walking the dog with. So I'm going to save us from ourselves. The thing about me, I don't have to do this to protect my reputation, because mine is secure. People already say...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I'm the smartest thing in Lincoln. So I don't need to do this for my reputation. I need to do it to help salvage the integrity of the Legislature as a deliberative