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LB 598

or October, as I was in the throes of a reelection campaign, in which nobody else wanted the job. And I was running unopposed. But I was in the throes...nevertheless, I was in the throes of reelection. And the gentleman wrote me, and he demanded, because I was such a disgrace to public office, that I resign my office, so that someone decent could be appointed. That one is subtle too. Your term is coming to an end. You're running for reelection, but you should resign. Anyway, I just wanted to share those. I intend to be supportive. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Louden on the advancement of LB 598.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. To me, this...right now, this term limits, I guess, is sort of like a marriage. I guess it's...right now, it's for better or for worse. It's just been two years now, getting close to two years, that the term limits were voted in. I think it wouldn't be any more than considerate of the voters to at least try it for a length of time. I...whether it's right or wrong, I guess history will tell us on that. I really think, instead of directing our energies to trying to repeal term limits, or something like that, we would be farther ahead to direct our energies to probably raising the salaries of the legislators. Now, having said this...and I'll tell you the reason why. Since I've been down here, I've found out that anyone living in the western part of the state, it's nearly impossible for them to be a senator down here, and...with the salary that's given, unless you have some outside income or something like that. In my case, I got boys running the ranch, so whether I'm there or not doesn't make any difference. How Senator Erdman and Senator Smith do it down here is something that I would like to look at their checkbook and their balance sheet. Because these guys, I tell you, have to be real geniuses, the way they're making a living and living down here and doing this. I guess I could say, Senator Erdman got married, maybe that helped. But we know that isn't the reason, because Senator Smith isn't married. So really, I think if we would raise the salaries of the legislators, there would be young people and qualified people that would be willing to move in and do this type of work for eight years or so, and it