

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

May 27, 2003

LB 283

(Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Brown amendment, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is one of those times when I will lay it out frankly at the beginning that the vote I'm going to give on this matter is purely political. It is based on what I deem to be practical and workable. I don't...oh, I would like to ask Senator Landis a question, Mr. President, as he approaches his desk.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, would you respond to a question from Senator Chambers?

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Landis, if this amendment is adopted, what course of action would you take with reference to the bill?

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Chambers, look, I don't want to mix this up with the body, but it's possible that I would consider, on the whole, not going forward with the bill. But we should be arguing about the policy, up or down, whether it's a good idea. I don't want to threaten the body.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Landis is on the high road. He is looking at policy. I am a politician working on a higher road, wanting to do what seems practical. I handed out something this morning that dealt with LB 1086, a bill that dealt with divestment and the MacBride Principles several years ago. Let me tell you how that ties into what we're doing right now. I cosponsored the amendment that would put the MacBride Principles into the statute, and they are still there. If you flip that sheet of paper you'll see the actual statutory language. There were senators who did not object strenuously to those amendments being added to my bill. What did my bill do? It was a bill that would have abolished the law that required the state to divest investments from companies doing business in South Africa. Since Apartheid had been overthrown, there was no need for the sanctions to remain in place. There were numerous companies. The state itself wanted my bill enacted into law so that divestment would become a thing