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LB 48, 608

rest of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Bromm, on advancement.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. I feel like I need to explain a couple of votes here. I voted to suspend the rules because I think the manner in which Senator Chambers has gone about this is very common in the way that we have approached things that would pop up late in the session like this previously. And the right way to do it is the way it was done is to suspend the rules and allow the amendment to go forward. And so I voted for the rule suspension. I voted against the adoption of the amendment, and I will vote against the advancement of the bill, and I need to explain that. I wasn't at the meeting, but I've heard enough about it that I certainly take my colleagues' words for it. And I don't think this thing has been handled well from the standpoint of the executive branch. The bottom line, however, for me is what is best for rural development? It is a tough nut to crack. When you are firing on all cylinders, it is a tough nut to crack. We have passed bills in the past and repealed them because they didn't do any good or there was no appreciable help demonstrated by the bills that were passed. So we've done away with programs. This year on LB 608 I have to say that I had extremely good cooperation from the director of the Department of Economic Development and I trust what he was telling me is what he believed. And we put together the best suggestion that the minds that were involved with it could come up with, and he seemed extremely willing to work with that process. And he defended the idea, I think, in being questioned pretty extensively about it. He supported it strongly. When this flap developed, I felt some obligation, perhaps because of the role as Speaker, to try to bring people together, if there was an answer. And we tried that, and the Governor suggested that we go ahead and appropriate \$50,000 a year for each of the next two years so the commission could...and then the Department of Economic Development would use that money to contract with the commission for rural development work. And he also pledged that he would instruct his people in the rural economic development section of DED to try to work more closely with the commission