

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

February 9, 2004 LB 841

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There is no inherent clash between religious operations, when they take in money and things of value, and their stated goal of telling people how to avoid hell and go to heaven, or whatever the good place is to go to and the bad place is to avoid. They don't want to pay taxes because of greed, because of the love of filthy lucre. It is not money that is the root of all evil. It is the love of money, based on the book, that is the root of all evil. And churches love money so much that they become evil in their efforts to avoid paying the taxes to support the society that everybody else has to pay and that society from which they derive so many benefits. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Chambers amendment, Senator Kremer, followed by Senator Chambers and Stuthman.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'd like to ask Senator Chambers a question, just to clarify it a little bit in my mind.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, would you yield?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will.

SENATOR KREMER: When you're speaking of religious organizations, would they be included in that group on line 7 as a nonprofit organization if they would perform the services that followed that? I mean, when you take religious organizations out, they could be included in that...in that group of nonprofits. Is that...is that correct or not?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I doubt that churches...that religious operations and nonprofit mean the same thing under the tax law, but maybe they do. If there is a nonprofit status, I suspect that there would be certain papers and documentation that would have to be provided to qualify for that status. But if they do provide this service, and I'm not aware of any religious operations that do,...