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LB 998

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Members of the Legislature, I'm going to support Senator Don Pederson's bill. I'm awfully tempted to offer some amendments, but I told him that I wouldn't, and I'm going to stick by that. But there are some things that need to be in the record. So at a future time, don't be surprised. Remember, we're on General File. Whatever is done on General File is not binding when a bill reaches Select File. And what I'm doing now may prepare the way, because I've already stated that once bills get to Select File I'm going to deal with them differently perhaps from the way I dealt with them on General File. To refresh the memory of those who paid attention, and to make it clear for the first time for those who did not, I had pointed out why I was not in any way going to impede the movement of bills on the consent calendar. They would be on Select File, and there for use by me in the way that I see fit. So this bill will go to Select File, and I'm going to support putting it there. But that doesn't mean I will keep my hands off the bill as far as attempted amendments of a substantive nature. The amendments I'm offering today, the motions I'm presenting, are not designed to affect or modify the bill at all. And I want that clear. I'm using it to take time. But I want to tell you all something. And there are not many of you in here, and not many are paying attention, so I'm going to say it, and you won't pick it up, but I'll hit you with it later. Over the weekend, I got some bad news and some bad news. What's the bad news? That the forecast indicates that there might be 100-and-something, maybe \$104 million added to the 200-and-something million dollar shortfall that already exists. That's the bad news for my colleagues. What's the other bad news? But it's good news for me. That gives me more leverage this session of the Legislature. We're going to have to give new and different attention to the budget, and decisions that have already been taken are going to have to be reconsidered, and different action is going to have to be taken. We're talking about quid pro quo, trade. I had said that the Governor has intruded into the legislative process. He has said that that lethal injection bill is going to come to his desk, and he will do everything necessary to bring it there, which means he's going to intrude into our proceedings. I'm going to do everything I can to mash his nose and stop him from doing it. And if he's going to use my colleagues against my interest, I'm