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LB 998

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...ask Senator Don Pederson. I don't want anything that I've said to cloud this bill and what it does. This is a good bill. But remember, when we're doing that...going through that comparison that they gave us in grade school, and good is one of those irregular words: good, better, best. So when we have a bill brought to us that the doctors agree with, it can be a good bill, but it can be made better. And a conscientious Legislature would make it the best. But I'm realistic, and I'm a practical politician, and I think in the same way that Senator Don Pederson has proceeded incrementally, that's the way many things have to be done in the Legislature. When you have to obtain the concurrence of at least 24 people, in some cases 29 other people, in others 32 other people, you do not have the luxury that the one who sits at the top of the executive department has, because that person can make a declaration, and that's it. That person may consult with others, but need not obtain the approval, concurrence, or agreement before initiating some action. Even when we have to cooperate before a gubernatorial appointment can go through, very rarely does the Legislature take issue. Now for about two years running, maybe two and a half years, I was constantly criticizing the fact that women and minorities were not being appointed to these boards and commissions. And I laid on...I just stayed on it and stayed on it and stayed on it. I know my colleagues got tired of hearing me, and they thought I'd get tired of doing it. But then a change started to be noticeable, and that change is continuing. Nothing in this state is functioning as it should with reference to females and members of minority groups. Why did not I include females in minority groups? Because females are a majority. If females would understand their power, females could change not only the face of this Legislature and the direction of this state, but the direction of this society and this country. A female could be put into the White House. A female has been Governor, but could be made Governor again. The majority of the people in this Legislature could be female. But such a thorough job of indoctrinating, conditioning females has been done that females lack...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.