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FLOOR DEBATE

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questions. If that is done to our satisfaction, we will vote to confirm. That's the way the system works. That's the way it should work. That is what we have done. We just didn't know which questions to ask, because people who had information did not share it with the Legislature on a timely basis. As for what Senator Friend said, he's just expressing his opinion, which he is entitled to do. Maybe when he speaks on issues he's wasting time. You've never heard me say I'm wasting time. I tell you I'm burning time off the clock. I have a plan. I have a purpose. He may not perceive it, others may not perceive it, but it is not essential that they perceive it, because I don't need anybody's cooperation, and I certainly don't need anybody's approval, and I don't seek anybody's approval. As to the brokenness of the system, it is not the fault of the Legislature that it acted in good faith on the information which had been presented to it. If we had been told that the company this lady works for is under investigation, and nevertheless chose to approve her nomination, we would not be coming back to discuss it again, and I would not have made the motion to reconsider. I would have made my remarks at that time. But being the oldest person in the Legislature, it behooved me to make an expeditious and timely motion to reconsider, because it had not been made. I'm going to assume my duties as I perceive them as a member of this body. And when I see the integrity or the reputation of the Legislature attacked in a way that I feel is unjustified or inappropriate, I am going to speak, I am going to act. And I will not seek a consensus on the floor of the Legislature before I do it. I'm not one of these senators who runs around here counting votes on issues. I'll know what the votes are when time comes for us to push the button. Then I chart my course accordingly.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The Governor is the culprit. Who would be held accountable if that Valdez ship ran aground and all the oil came out? The captain. Who was held accountable when that barge, or that tourist boat, out around New York or wherever it was, ran into this pier and killed and injured a lot of people? The captain. Who is held accountable if there is a military disaster? The commanding general. They use the term "on a