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March 18, 2004      LB 1071, 1089

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. Is this my third time, so I can keep track here?

SENATOR CUDABACK: No.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No? Not yet. Well, I'm just like all the rest of you. I don't know what's going to happen this afternoon. I don't think even Senator Chambers knows what's going to happen this afternoon. But I'd like to encourage you, if you want debate on this budget bill, this is the time to do it. That's why I'm talking about piece...bits and pieces of it. There's other parts in here I've asked some of you to start thinking about talking on. We can get a pretty thorough discussion through this afternoon. I don't know whether what Senator Chambers is proposing, or Senator Landis, whoever it's going to be, will get legs by late in the afternoon when we start getting tired. And if you think there will be adequate discussion, that will be up to you. I'm not going to enter into that fray, although I do believe we ought to have a good discussion. But some of what Senator Chambers is offering is worthy of consideration. And so I'm going to suggest, once again, encourage you to discuss any parts of this package, or specifically LB 1089, that you would like to, continue to ask questions as we were doing this morning. And perhaps by later on this afternoon, or whenever that may be, this evening, there will be a consensus at least by 30 people to know what to do. I'm going to talk a little bit about LB 1071, which is a bill I also introduced. This has to do with oversight of our committee and the Legislature over projects that the state colleges and universities can do. LB 1071 would establish a capital construction review process for university and state college projects when debt is issued through a facility corporation and is repaid utilizing general operating budget revenues. What we had this year, there's a library project that the university was going to...needed to fund. Can't...don't have a quarrel with that problem. But they were creating a nonprofit organization for which to do that, which avoided the review process through the Legislature and...the Appropriations Committee and ultimately the Legislature. So I introduced LB 1071. It simply says that these capital construction projects would continue to