

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 24, 2004 LB 1049

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a quorum present.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, inform the body where we were when we recessed for lunch.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Legislature was discussing, considering, LB 1049. Senator Beutler had offered and presented AM2814. That amendment is pending, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal page 782.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, on the Beutler amendment, AM2814, followed by Senator Bourne.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. At this point, obviously, I'm in opposition to the Beutler amendment. The first part of it that reinstates the 7- to 10-week waiting period on the people that quit without good cause, you lose about \$3 million of the savings that you would have gotten in the bill the way it was written. So at this point I have no choice but to oppose that. But I want to stress to everybody--and I don't know how I can make it any clearer--this only, only affects people that quit without good cause or are fired for misconduct. That's all it affects. And I don't see how we can keep making the argument that we're hurting innocent people. We are not hurting innocent people. We're hurting people that through their own actions are going out and doing these things. Now...I mean, I know it's probably a philosophical difference between myself and some members, but I just cannot understand why we need to pay someone who comes to a business, and they work, and they work the required amount of time before they're eligible, and then they quit, why you should pay them when the business still needs the employee, he still...they still have the work for them. And it costs a lot of money to train employees. I know that Senator Beutler has said it's good for the workforce, it's great to have fluidity in the employment and employees being able to change jobs, and I understand that. But in a business, in my little business, we figure it takes a minimum, a minimum of six months to train a decent employee, a very minimum, and everybody learns at