

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 1, 2004

LB 1090

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you may speak next if you care to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, people who watch professional football know that there are certain quarterbacks who are known for being able to, what is called, manage the clock, and that comes into play when the two-minute warning is sounded. And the two-minute warning comes two minutes before the end of the game. Some quarterbacks know how to call plays and extend that time, it seems, indefinitely. They have the kind of plays that can move their team down the field incrementally while conserving as much time as is necessary to score, but they manage the clock against the other team's welfare by ensuring, to the extent that they can, that the other team will not have enough time remaining to counter score. I'm a clock manager in the Legislature. People don't realize that. They get wrought up. They get emotional and they get caught up in their one individual issue. I don't do that. We've got a whole lot of time left in this session, far more than the equivalent of two minutes at the end of a football game. People who should have been here providing leadership have not been here, but we have picked up the slack and done it anyway. So I don't want a person to look at me critically and expect me to accept the criticism and refrain from what I'm doing. I'm going to fight against issues that I don't believe in, and I don't care if we wind up in a special session. But before you all look at me, you all look at your leaders. Do that and ask how you came to the set of circumstances you find yourselves in. When I said I would step aside if lethal injection came off the agenda and facilitate the movement of things in this Legislature, that's what I did, and things flowed along. So I've kept my end of the bargain. In fact, I've gone beyond what some people that I was bargaining with thought that I would do. But all things come to an end and, having delivered on my part of the bargain that was based on a particular issue, I now am going to revert to the way that I do things, and what I don't like, I'm going to fight. I do not like the sales tax, but I do like the idea of our discussing it. There has to be more bludgeoning. There has to be a bit more blood seepage before people come to the realization that something has got to be done. That point has not been reached