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FLOOR DEBATE

April 2, 2004 LB 1090

my advice, to get a little thickness to the skin, so that you realize we're not at a tea party. We're not sipping tea from delicate cups with filigree designs and little, finely-wrought handles, and we crook one little finger up in the air and sip our "tay" and eat our scones. No, we're in the middle of a bloodletting, figuratively speaking, on occasion, and we're dealing with issues so serious and grave and of such import to the public...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that if our skin is thin, either we should not be here, or we should be ready to run home and lick our wounds and then come back and take a whipping again and run home and lick wounds, until pretty soon a little callus is built up, and we can stay in the middle of the struggle that we voluntarily put ourselves in, the position that we solicited people's vote to put us in. And don't expect to come here and be praised and treated with kid gloves when we're dealing with the serious business of the state. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on FA1657 to LB 1090. We will discuss that in a minute. (Visitors and doctor of the day introduced.) On with discussion of the Chambers amendment, FA1657, Senator Maxwell, followed by Senators Landis, Wehrbein, Mines, Beutler, and Chambers. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I do not rise in reaction to Chambers' amendment. I haven't looked at that or thought about it yet. I pressed my light in response to some of the sanctimonious talks I've been hearing this morning about "do nothing." Woe is the Legislature; we're doing nothing, we do nothing, we've failed again. I find that insulting. I do not believe that what we've been doing this week is doing nothing. Several senators have made heroic efforts this week to provide compromises, to provide some new ideas. It's been some of the best floor debate of the session, one of those rare occasions in which people are off script. They're not just reading prepared press releases. People are coming in with new ideas. People are coming in with questions. I'm not claiming any great credit