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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 958

of Senator Chambers' amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The amendment was not adopted. I do raise the call. Mr. Clerk, next amendment.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend with FA1615. (Legislative Journal page 1390.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on FA1615 to AM3226 to LB 598.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'm going to read the amendment so that it is a matter of record. On page 1, in line 18, I would put my amendment. I'm going to read to you what is implicated in this. If you look in line 17 of the committee amendment, you'll find this language: "Unborn child means an individual member of the species Homo sapiens at any stage of development in utero." I would add this sentence: "This is a declaration of religious belief, not a statement of scientific fact nor does it command the assent of all religions, great or small." This is a bill whose whole thrust is based on religion. The purpose of this amendment is to make that fact clear. Other amendments that I offer are along the same line. The last one was an attempt to make the bill somewhat rational, capable of being enforced. But knowing that my colleagues would reject that sensible amendment, I have others prepared which will deal with the way this bill is crafted, and that crafting is based on this language that my present amendment would attach itself to. When you talk about a member of the species Homo sapiens at any stage of development in utero, that statement was made so that nobody would think that sperm is a part of human development. That's one way to look at it. The other is based on moral and ethical cowardice. They say that it would be in utero because they are afraid to deal with the consequences of artificial insemination or in vitro fertilization which means outside the womb. Artificial insemination can occur within the womb, but it's the in vitro that they are fearing. There have been situations where fertilized eggs have been frozen. This is done with animals on a relatively frequent and regular basis. My amendment is calling attention to the nature of this bill. It is religion in