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April 13, 2004 LB 625

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Again, so...again, I'm not quite certain what to do. Senator Chambers talks about racism, and asked Senator Brown to get up and say that it doesn't exist. And none of us can say that, because we know that's not true. But quite honestly, I don't even think we need to get to race in this issue. I think, to me--and not to minimize discrimination in any way, shape, or form--but it's way simpler than that. And it's simply, we're saying that, are the advantages in the bill, LB 625, worth jeopardizing \$500,000 in federal money? I don't see how it is. And I asked Senator Brown to clarify exactly why. And I listened carefully, and I didn't hear a compelling reason to go forward with the bill. I look at the committee statement, and I see that the Bankers supported it; the Realtors; an individual person, I assume he's a landlord of some sort; the Apartment Association; and the Home Builders, supported the bill. NEOC didn't even testify here. And I think what happened, and Senator Brown can correct me, I think what happened is the bill went forward, it was probably brought by the Bankers or the Realtors--and there's nothing wrong with that, I've carried bankers for...or bills for those groups as well, there's nothing wrong with that--but I think what happened is the bill was brought to Senator Brown, NEOC looked at it, thought there was a problem, and gave her some language that, you know, they thought might resolve it. Well, I'm not convinced that they are. And I would be willing to bet that if we do lose \$500,000, that the Bankers and the Realtors and the Home Builders aren't going to pony up that \$500,000 that we're not going to lose. So again, we don't need to get to the race issue here whatsoever. Are the advantages to LB 625 great enough that it's worth it to us to risk \$500,000 or the loss of \$500,000 in federal money? And I haven't heard a compelling reason that they are. I haven't heard that. So anyway, I'm going to vote yes to return to Select File. But again, I have to say that reading the bill, what it actually does, allowing respondents to obtain information during the investigation and allow copies of reports if it's not an aggrieved person but a tester, those are the two things that the bill does, I don't even see why...I don't see the advantage to those things as it relates to the potential loss of \$500,000. So I'm going to vote