

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2004      LR 209

SPEAKER BROMM: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Chambers, FA1611, a similar note to withdraw. Senator Landis, I had a motion but I have a note you want to withdraw, Senator. Senator Chambers, I now have, Senator, your motion to return to Select File for FA1700. (Legislative Journal page 1656.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, where we are located in the session necessitates that the discussion this afternoon be marked by quality rather than quantity. My intent is not to take a great deal of time. I have discussed with Senator Landis what I intend to do. If you look on your gadget, you'll see that I have four floor amendments. I have no intention of taking all of the time I can on each one. I will take less time on some than others. But I had to choose this methodology because there are some points that I want to make about this subject, and when we were on Select File, the opportunity did not present itself. So rather than offer the types of motions where time can be taken, I have utilized language that had been in other amendments that were not considered to point out flaws in this proposed constitutional amendment and to try to prevail on some of my colleagues not to vote for this thing. I would not mind being known as the defender and protector of the integrity of the state constitution. Disparaging comments have been made about the way the fabric of that document has been stained, sullied, torn, and tattered by various propositions that have found their way into that document, propositions which, in my opinion, ought not to be there, but they are. I cannot remove them, but I don't want there to be any additional staining and besmirching of that document if I'm able to prevent it. Right now we know that the state's finances are in disarray. Programs are in disarray. This is a time, and I especially appeal to the Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee when we need...and the Chairperson of the Judiciary Committee. We need people of vision, people with vision. If there ever were a time in this