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FLOOR DEBATE

January 31, 2005 LB 261

little in the minds of a majority of the body. The motion to cease debate divided almost evenly on those who wanted to take the lazy way out and those who wanted to pursue the issue because there were comments they wanted to put in the record and questions they wanted to have answered. But since it's early in the session, I want to make it crystal clear to everybody, and you all can chart your course and plot how you're going to deal with me. Any issue that I want to speak on I'm going to, and I will speak as long as I think I need to speak. And if everybody leaves the Chamber and the new senators follow the bad example of your colleagues, and you go stretch out in the senators' lounge or go kick back in your office, what difference does that make to me? Am I embarrassed when the camera shows that the Chamber is empty? Not at all. The question is not asked, why is Chambers there? The question asked is, why is nobody else there? But that's for each person to determine. I have not been told whom this bill hurts. A statement has been made that the taxpayers are hurt. That is a matter of opinion. I want to know whose circumstances are inappropriately worsened, or in other words harmed, because these boards exist. Until this morning, I had not heard anybody crying out to me as the "defender of the downtrodden" that they need help to get rid of these boards because they are imposing a crushing overwhelming burden on the people who serve on the boards. I'm going to ask Senator Baker a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker, would you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I guess he's as much here today as he ordinarily is.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I do not see Senator Baker, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. I will ask Senator Stuhr some more questions then.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr, would you respond.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Stuhr, you may not watch professional