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February 2, 2005 LB 96

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Discussion of LB 96 itself to E & R Initial? Open for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, although I didn't win that vote, the number of votes was heartening to me. You learn how to read things after you've been here a while. By the time we get to the appropriations process, the appropriating process, things are going to be a lot different. But I want you to read this bill and ask yourself, what have you done, those of you who support it? There is no amount guaranteed to any person in the National Guard, zip. There is no money currently that exists, and it's going to have to be appropriated. Senator Janssen said he's going to bring an A bill, and he cannot formulate an A bill. And I don't believe anybody on the appropriations...well, is Senator Foley still on the appropriations bill? Oh, he's...nobody on the appropriations bill would agree (laugh) with what Senator Janssen will put together, in my view. So he's going to have to come to the Appropriations Committee and say, give me some money. And the Appropriations Committee is going to have been listening to all of these agencies and departments, where the state has a concrete responsibility to appropriate money, whining, crying, begging, cajoling, manufacturing reasons as to why they should get a certain amount of money. And when something like this comes in, it's not going to be high on the priority list. By the time we reach the appropriation process, a lot is going to have happened in Iraq, and there's not going to be people running to jump on the bandwagon like there will be this morning. Reality is going to have set in. And I say again, an election doesn't change anything. The Sunni Muslims did not even participate to any extent. According to American and other intelligence sources, the Sunnis constitute the backbone of what they call the insurgency. I call them freedom fighters. But that doesn't mean only Sunni Muslims are involved. There are Shiites who have set off suicide bombs in the northern part of Iraq. People way over here on this side of the world don't even know what's happening in their own country, in their own state, in their own city, in this Legislature, and they're going to act like they know what's happening a half a world away? That's why I'm not worried too much about losing