

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 3, 2005 LB 54

discharge. These people could have served in war, in combat, under completely honorable conditions, and in my mind that is very comparable to an honorable discharge, but there were extenuating circumstances and those extenuating circumstances were such that they were separated from the military, but it was under honorable conditions. And for that reason I support the interim study that I attended also, support the committee action, and I stand to support not a particular war and, in fact, I think we need to make better diplomatic and better political decisions before we commit our young men and women to war and to putting their lives at risk than what we have done in the past. But I stand to support this because I think it continues a long-standing policy, a 60-year policy,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...that we have done, and I encourage you to do likewise.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Schimek.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is not home on the range, where never is heard a discouraging word. I'll have a few discouraging words to say, but I've got to get something very clear first. I wanted to do last session, by way of a floor amendment, what is being done now. I felt that Senator...former Senator Hilgert rolled over too easily under that bogus Attorney General's Opinion. I didn't think it was valid, and it should have been fought, but my understanding is because funds may have been going low, getting low, this was an easy way around the situation. I agree with everything that Senator Preister just said. These people who got a general discharge under honorable conditions have the characterization of honorable. If a rose is a rose is a rose, and a rock is a rock is a rock, a veteran is a veteran is a veteran. I have to be careful when I'm saying something that