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FLOOR DEBATE

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amendment. And, as I told you earlier, it's not as though I'm going to fight for this amendment. I just brought it for consideration of the body. It doesn't appear that there's much support and, with the idea of not wanting to hinder Senator Schimek's bill and with the interest of time, I'm going to withdraw the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn. Speaker Brashear, you're recognized to speak, as the Speaker.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, and I'll try not to do this in the middle of ongoing debate, but I have another obligation as Speaker so I needed to do it now. Please forgive me. I'm getting a number of questions and so I'd like to be responsive to those in order that everybody knows what I know. First of all, the pages, when I'm done, will distribute a written copy of what my policy will be with regard to putting a hold on a bill that is on the agenda, or in sequence, and I think that's best just left to the written explanation which we have prepared. There is a methodology in place for putting a hold on a bill. And it is my preference...I've always had a frustration as a member when I have come to the floor and expected to see an agenda flow and been relying upon the order, and then I find out that we're passing over, passing over, passing over. The only people that that works to the advantage of are the people who are getting the pass over, if that's what they want. So I'm trying to put together agendas in which we will, in fact, deal with each and every bill in the order that it's presented, and that's the object of putting out the hold policy the way it is. The second thing is that within that hold policy is a policy for absences. We have to consider the needs of the members of the body with regard to absences, and those will be accommodated and you will not be penalized for an infrequent absence. I think that doesn't relate to all of us doing all of our duties. The third thing I'd like to mention to you is that tomorrow is an unusual day in recognition of what some would consider to be a nonevent and others would consider to be an important event. I don't want to get into that. I'm simply saying that out of...yes, tip of the hat...out of courtesy to the body, when we're convening at 11:00 and adjourning at 12:00, if somebody gets caught in