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February 9, 2005    LB 53

SENATOR SMITH:    Thank you, Mr. President and members.    This amendment simply extends the waiting period from two years to five years.    I'd prefer ten, quite frankly.    When we look at corrections issues, recidivism is one of the biggest issues we have to deal with.    And I tried last year for ten years in committee.    I was unsuccessful.    And so I think that five years is more reasonable, perhaps.    And it's certainly an item for good discussion here, based on the merits of its straightforward approach, simply changing the two-year that's in the current committee amendments to the five-year waiting period; and certainly, as it addresses recidivism and attempts to prevent that.    And I would urge its favorable adoption.    Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    Thank you, Senator Smith.    You've heard the opening on the Smith amendment to the committee amendments to LB 53.    Open for discussion on that motion.    Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as I stated on the previous amendment, I'm opposed to this one.    I will not take a lot of time.    And I want to make just a general observation.    If there's a bill before the Legislature to which I am opposed, I state my opposition to the bill, I make it clear that I'm going to do everything I can to stop it or kill it, but I never pretend that I'm trying to make what I consider to be a bad bill better.    I'm always very open and aboveboard.    I'm speaking for myself, with regard to the tactics and the strategies that I employ on the floor.    What Senator Smith is asking us to do now is to, in effect, gut the bill.    From the discussions that have taken place yesterday and the brief amount that has taken place this morning, I believe the body is of a mind to accept the committee amendment, which would require the two-year delay before a person can vote after having completed his or her debt paying to society.    I don't like that amendment.    I would like no waiting period.    But in a political setting, dealing with a political body, political decisions are made.    I know when to hold 'em, I know when to fold 'em.    And on this amendment, I'm folding 'em.    But I'm going to support it and LB 53.    I'm opposed to Senator Smith's amendment.    Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    Thank you, Senator Chambers.    Senator