

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 17, 2005 LB 96

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote just taken.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your reconsideration motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And Mr. President, the rest of the day that we're here you all are going to have a chance to punish me some more, because I'm going to give you the opportunity to vote on a number of motions and amendments, and on other bills. And I think we may as well reach this point in the session today as later. One day I misstated the number of days we had been here. This is the thirtieth day. That means we have now reached a 60-day session. And you all know what I can do during a 60-day session. I can do that standing on my head, stacking marbles in a corner. I know how to provoke my colleagues. I know how to make them rise to the bait. And I've demonstrated it, as I will demonstrate it more during the session. But like old Mephistopheles, you've got to make those who are rising to the bait feel that they're gaining something. So they got their pound of flesh this morning with that vote. The quid pro quo has taken place. Now I'm going to discuss some additional matters on this bill. I was given a copy of a speech that Ted Sorensen, a Lincoln native and retired public servant, delivered at the New York...at the New School University commencement, in New York City. That was in May. Just the first few words of his speech. "This is not a speech. Two weeks ago I set aside the speech I prepared. This is a cry from the heart, a lamentation for the loss of this country's goodness and therefore its greatness. Future historians studying the decline and fall of America will mark this as the time the tide began to turn--toward a mean-spirited mediocrity in place of a noble beacon." There's more of this I intend to deal with before the debate on LB 96 is concluded. How can I refer to what has taken place as a debate, when only one person is participating? I gave a hint this morning, looking at the way Senator Thompson referred to me in her letter. She said: It has been a pleasure serving with all of you. Which, as I stated, meant that I'm a person of multiple personalities. So although you see one being standing here, there may be more than one