February 17, 2005 LB 96

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Pederson.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Further discussion? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, to show how I own this Legislature...and when I say that, people get irritated and they say, he doesn't own the Legislature. When I can make the Legislature shoot itself in the foot, I own the Legislature. When I can make these senators so upset with me they will legislate in a way they have never legislated before, I own the Legislature. They know that what is in this bill is not wise. It has never been done before. It should not be done. And I ought to just let the bill go to show how incompetent the Legislature is, how lacking in responsibility a majority of my colleagues are. So what I presume to be my responsibility is to hold the Legislature's feet to the fire and continue to do battle and call the public's attention to what is being done here. If it were not for what is happening in Iraq, this bill would not have been brought this session. Although Senator Janssen has tried to do similar things before, he pointed out that he thinks the timing is right. Why? Because people's emotions are high. They feel they have to go along with anything associated with that war. I don't. Now, whereas I might own the Legislature, nobody owns me. And nobody can provoke me to make a fool out of myself because that person irritates and annoys me. Look how I run this Legislature. Look what you're doing. And I'm going to make you do more and more foolish things. And what you need to consider is this: Does anything that a majority of this body will do harm me in any way? No. My intelligence remains intact. My behaving responsibly by opposing inappropriate legislation remains intact. And they will see the Legislature behaving as children used to. There's something you wanted a child to do, so you're a child yourself, you tell that other child, you better not do that, and the child runs and does exactly what you told him or her had better not be done. If you don't want the child to do something, you tell that child, you better do that. Then the