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FLOOR DEBATE

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one. They don't run this Legislature, and if they run the rest of you, they certainly don't run me. And nobody is going to disrespect the young woman who is the counsel for the Judiciary Committee. She looks young. Obviously, she's female, and that encourages some people to treat her dismissively, as women are treated dismissively. And that goes not just for staff members, but even some of the female senators in here. And without being sexist or chauvinistic, I think men have a responsibility to do something to make sure our colleagues are treated properly. Let's say that we had three Asian members of the Legislature and negative things were directed against them because of their ethnicity or national origin. I would be saying something about that, so I don't want any of the women to think that I feel they're helpless or incapable of speaking up for themselves. But when I see something or hear something that I think is inappropriate, I'm going to act in accord with my principles, and I want to make all of those things crystal-clear. So, although I want to clean up any misunderstanding that may exist referenced to Paul O'Hara, based on my comments, everything else I said I meant it, and I want to reemphasize that this morning. And you all need to put these lobbyists in their places, because they mock you, they make jokes about you, and they talk about how they control you. But all they have to do is give you a meat loaf sandwich and a chicken dinner and they've...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...got you. When we stay late, they run some food out in the Senators' Lounge and you go eat like hogs at a trough, and they own you and they laugh at you and they mock you. Why do you think they'll send these notes in here ordering you to get out there when you might be on the floor discussing an issue? Because they own you and disrespect you. You run this state. You control the purse strings. There are three branches of government, but the Legislature is created more equal than the equality that exists with reference to the other two, and you need to understand that and think about the Legislature as an institution, respect the Legislature as an institution, uphold the Legislature as an institution. There are some of you I have had disputes with, and I will have disputes with you again in the future. Some of you, I think,