fact that this is all about rights and redemption and
forgiveness because it's not. I still argue that it's political
because if this were based on rights, we would be restoring all
rights upon completion of the sentence, not even after two
years, all rights: first amendment, second amendment, down the
line. That's why I admire the Governor for vetoing this,
because I think it maintains law and order in our state and not
this piecemeal bit that whatever rights can muster the political
support in the Legislature, well, then we'll do that. If
there's something else, well, then we'll do that, too. I have
concerns that there are parts of our voting system that are wide
open. I'm not convinced that a convicted felon living in
prison...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...cannot vote. I don't think we have a process
in place that protects the disenfranchisement of the rest of the
voters. But I'm not here to work on that at this point. I'm
not...certainly not up here to speak on that. But we have the
process in place that withstands the constitutional scrutiny,
provides a pardon for those who deserve it, those who ask for
it. And I realize that it might be difficult to sort through
some of those issues after a time for criminals who are truly
repentant and remorseful, and that is part of the process of
restoration is dealing with those issues. Thank you,
Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Friend,
followed by Senator Dwite Pedersen. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the
Legislature, I almost turned my light off, and part of that
reason that I almost...part of the reason that I almost turned
the light off is because of some of the comments that have
already been made. Senator Brashear, obviously, as always,
eloquent comments. Senator Schimek, very well thought out.
Even the proponents of, I guess, the Governor's actions, well
spoken. But there's something here that I guess disturbs me a
little bit, and that is the idea or the implication that we
can't talk, or we shouldn't be talking any more about this