

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2005      LB 739

will also be your third time, as you know.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler is exactly right. But the reason I offered this amendment is to show what a terrible shell game this bill is. While talking about all the great things being done for workers, that begins to collapse and then to evaporate when you analyze the details and the specifics. I have an amendment up there which would be designed to strike Section 5, which is the section this part we're discussing now is contained in. I did that to force discussion. There is so much in this bill, so many parts that have been added to it, that there is no practical or pragmatic way to discuss even the divided portions of this bill in the three times that a person has to speak. So alternatives have to be resorted to to provide time for discussion. But I'm going to send a message to the businesspeople and to those on this floor who will try to resort to cloture to prevent an adequate discussion of this bill. Even bills in which I have an interest are going to take a lot of time. Now, those who set agendas from outside this body, the special interest groups, the lobbyists, the businesspeople, can be allowed, if you all choose, to bring our processes to a halt. If this is the bill where the fight is to be waged, if this is the line in the sand to challenge my resolve, then let us get with it and do that. But understand how you're harming workers when you take such a short-sighted view of what it is we're talking about. Senator Beutler took, step by step, the body in seeing exactly what this language is going to result in. Do you think business cares if this \$10, or, even if my amendment were adopted, the \$20, would move to the vanishing point as years go by to where it is worth, in effect, nothing? Business doesn't care. We're here to look after the interests of the people. When you all run for election, you talk about being a person of the people. What people are you talking about? Business is the one who gets everything it wants. Why, there was a time a bill like that Cabela abomination would not have been introduced, let alone advanced by a committee to this floor, and then designated as the vehicle for business to put everything into it that they expect to extort from this Legislature. And what do they give you in exchange? Nothing. But they tell you that you will overcome Senator Chambers. Do you see how you let me dominate