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FLOOR DEBATE

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bill, which, I would have given it a different name in its first appearance, I read all of that thing. I marked it. But the thing about Senator Flood was, he was willing to look at the suggestions, evaluate them, and he accepted changes in the bill, which everybody who looks at the bill now will see as having been improvements. I've helped others on this floor. If I would focus on one area or two areas with laser-like intensity, you could not do anything with me. That means, rather than talking to you about your bad bills, I would wait till it got on the floor, and then, with a stiletto, in some cases, I would excise these parts, and I would show enough of the members how ridiculous it is, that they would, against their personal desires, support amendments that I would offer to those bills. And it would take a lot of time. Other situations, I would come with a meat ax or a meat cleaver, and I would just hack and chop. But after I got through, the product even in that case would be a better one. But it would take us a long time to get there. And from the lack of interest and concern I see being shown for the people that I care about, that is a course I'm seriously considering. I don't owe it to you all to do what I do in cooperating with you and working on your bills. You don't do that with me on my bills. All you can do is tell me why your constituents will tell you you've got to oppose them. I've been bigger than the other people on this floor. I have tried to exemplify what a state senator is supposed to be. And the record will bear me out. So maybe a change is in order for me, and you will see the difference. And I'll have a lot more time of my own. It's easier to attack a bill on the floor than to negotiate with the introducer. On the floor, I can antagonize the introducer and get that person so tied up in knots, because most of them don't read their own bills anyway, that they won't know whether they're coming or going. And when they seem about to collapse, then I'll back off and let the body take care of them from there. Most of these bills are poorly drafted. Most of the senators who bring bills have not read them in detail. So they can't really hold their own on the floor when they come under attack. They have bills brought to them by others, sometimes an agency, sometimes an organization. And they'll be assured that it's going to be all right. Well, the only thing that organization or that agency wants is a water carrier. And the representatives of those agencies or organizations do not