

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

March 22, 2005 LB 739

separate committees--one that deals with labor issues; one that deal with business issues. I will say here, as I've said before, when the cockroach goes to court against the chicken and all of the judges are chickens, the cockroach never wins. When working people's interests are at stake and those determining the outcome are the "handpersons" of business, the laboring people's interests will never prevail. Look around this floor. Where are those who call themselves friends of labor? Where are they? What I should do, and I didn't think about it, was get one of those pieces of paper that the labor union will use to select people they want to support running for office, and I'd just read off their names and then you could look around the Chamber and see if they're here while we're talking about the interests of laboring people. You won't see them. There's so much down here that is a sham and a show. Bills like this bring it out in the open, but people may not see it who haven't been here awhile and do not know how these things are decided. Some may not have been here long enough to know who those senators are who pretend to be the friends of working people. You cannot say that everybody on this floor is a friend of working people. If that were the case, a bill like this would never have come here. Now, it might have been introduced, but it wouldn't have made it to the floor. And if it made it to the floor, it would not be going across unscathed. These are the acid tests of where people are...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and what they really believe. So I'm going to take as much time as I can to keep talking about the laboring people. And what I could do, if I wanted to, is just repeat those two words until pretty soon they would lose all meaning, because when you hear something repeated over, and over, and over, pretty soon the sense of it is gone. I could say laboring people, laboring people, laboring people, laboring people for all of my five minutes, trying to underscore a point, and there are people in here who probably feel they will never have to work again. We have a former gold miner in here, a gold driller, not a gold digger, a gold driller, and he probably would never want to go back to that kind of work again. But if he did, he'd certainly want those who drill for gold to be