

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

March 24, 2005 LB 739

first place. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Doctor of the day introduced.) Senator Chambers, did you wish to speak?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, there's peace in the valley, and at this point it's unnecessary that I say anything else.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, there are no further lights on, so in that case you're recognized to close if you care to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I did mean what I said when I indicated it's not necessary for me to say anything else other than to let you know what it is you're voting on now. This is the amendment that I had begun talking about first thing this morning, where we have met, reached an accord, and it is reflected in this amendment. I did say that I would touch on what the Speaker had done to bring us to this point. And let me tell you why I'm doing it. I want people to understand that you all have an active Speaker who is trying to facilitate and work to get things done. He is not being bullied and buffaloes by the lobby as has happened on occasion in the past, because I've been here and I've seen some Speakers capitulate. The Speaker made it clear--and some of you all may have heard it by way of the grapevine, the rumor mill, or the gossip network--made it clear that the work of the Legislature is going to be done by the legislators. Policy will be formulated on the floor of the Legislature and not in the lobby. The lobby can do anything they want to, say anything they want to, try anything they want to to influence individual senators. That's what they're paid to do. The strength or weakness of the individual senator will determine how much impact the pressure from the lobbyists will have. We know they're paid to do that. They don't have any interest or concern about good public policy. They are hirelings. They do what they do just because they're paid to do it. Whatever the client tells them to do they will do. If there are two sides on a given issue, the lobbyist is going to go to the side which will pay him or her the most money. You may have a lobbyist on two different bills; on one of them it might involve, say, public power doing something. And because that lobbyist was hired to speak in