

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

March 24, 2005      LB 739

behalf of public power, the argument is made that the capabilities of this public entity should not be restricted, because of a bogus argument that there will be competition with the private sector. The private sector's interest cannot overbalance the responsibility of a public entity, so the lobbyist is arguing on the side of the public entity. Then there is another issue where there's a similar dispute, let's say with utility companies, and the lobbyist gets hired by a private gas company. Now that same lobbyist who argued out of the right side of the lobbyist's mouth in behalf of the public entity against the private interest now comes over here because he or she is hired by a private entity and given more money will talk out of the left side of the mouth and suddenly see the interests of the private entity as being unfairly compromised because the public entity is going to get involved in this area. So you have the lobbyist arguing both sides of a question because the lobbyist has been hired by two different clients. And that's the way lobbyists work. Don't let them tell you when you go out there, hang tough, stay in there, kick Ernie in the teeth. They're not in here. They don't ever attempt to hang tough when they talk to me face-to-face. They don't attempt to kick me in my teeth when they're dealing with me. They send you in here and they tell you...they won't say the term "dumbbell." They'll say,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...dumbbell, let's you and Ernie fight. But they're not going to fight me, except they're going to try to do it through you. Then if you get flayed, and if there is a pound of flesh taken from your hide, they're not going to be there to suffer the pain with you. You need to think and understand how things are done. But we reached the point where we did on this bill because the Speaker is perceptive. He knew I was not going to go away, and we have a session to deal with. So you all ought to be appreciative of the work that the Speaker did on this. The bill can now move to Select File if there are enough votes to do that. I still don't think the bill is in the form that it needs to be in. The discussion has not been completed. But in keeping with the bargain that I reached...