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March 29, 2005 LB 150

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...then this is not onerous. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Chambers, you're recognized on AM0967.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, look at my complexion and you'll see a man and...whose ancestors have been denied the benefits of democracy, so we understand what those concepts are. And I find it ironic that a man in my situation has to talk to people of your complexion and your political persuasion, which generally is conservative, about democracy. When has democracy ever been a concept which entitled the majority to decide to take something from the minority which they had no right to take? What is being asked for in LB 150 is to let some paternalistic individuals decide what, in their mind, is best for people who don't want to give their money to advertising and propaganda programs. So these who know better than these people who are paternalists, producing, know what's in their best interests, the paternalists will say, well, you don't know what's in your best interests; we do, and since there are more of us than you, we're going to do what's in your best interests, whether you want to or not, whether it turns out to be in your best interest or not. is antidemocratic. The majority doesn't rule in every instance. They didn't even rule when there was a Revolutionary War in this When they break down those who favored breaking away country. from England, about one-third favored breaking away, about one-third was opposed, and about one-third were just in the middle without having made up their mind. So that revolution did not occur because a majority of the people on this continent wanted to break away from England. Senator Wehrbein is arguing that if you just deprive somebody of their right to their own property for 30 days, that's all right. I'm sure that what Senator Janssen would like to do in his grocery store is have somebody come in and plop down a \$20 bill and buy \$18.25 worth of groceries, and Senator Janssen tells them, well, I've got some papers here and you fill them out and next month you can come and get your change; you got \$1.75 coming; you're not going to get it right now; I know what's best; if I can take this