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FLOOR DEBATE

March 29, 2005      LB 150

(laughter) this is a motion to bracket this bill until May 15. Right now the Legislature is being asked to fly blind. There is a matter pending before the U.S. Supreme Court which bears directly on what LB 150 attempts to address. If a person were trained in the law, if a person were trained in accounting, if a person were trained in logic, if a person just had common sense, he or she would want to know what the factors are that will have a bearing on the ultimate decision. If those factors are not currently available but will be made available, wise people will wait until those factors have, in fact, become available. There are big producers and those who speak for big producers supporting LB 150, and you'll hear them invariably say, well, this is for the sake of the little producers. And the little producers just don't know what's in their best interests, but those who represent the big producers know. Why are the big producers behind this bill and in favor of it? Why do people keep invoking the big producers? They, on the one hand, say the big producers don't need this because they do their own advertising. Now, when I see on television an advertisement for beef, do you think I care whether it's Tyson or B...IBP, whatever that is? I don't even know the names of these big companies, but they're out there, I assure you. They're everywhere. When Senator Hudkins and others were talking about certain cuts of meat and the lean cuts and the lean preferences that people have when it comes to beef, that does not come from the checkoff. That is a market-driven attitude. There are dieticians, there are doctors, even some people in the national Department of Agriculture who will talk about healthful eating. There are companies which talk about healthful eating. Every time the public gets on a new tear behind some particular dietary fad, there are companies which will immediately try to accommodate that new market. So it is not because this beef checkoff money was being spent that the public wants leaner meat. And those who are saying that know they're not accurately reflecting reality. Senator Hudkins is not here, but Senator Baker is, so I'd like to ask Senator Baker...no. Let me ask Senator Louden a question, one of the big hats. Senator Louden, I'd like to ask you a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Louden.