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LB 709

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the first thing I want to do is take this opportunity to correct the record based on two points that I made yesterday. The first, I had said that the Governor is a Catholic. He is not, and for that I applaud his good judgment. The second, I had said that he is injecting his religion into state business by lowering the flag to half-staff. He did give that order, but it was pursuant to a directive from the President, you-all's President of the United States, George Bush, who is a panderer. He directed that flags be lowered. The Governor, in compliance with the President's directive, lowered the flags. So there would not be any point in my offering a resolution that I was working on to drop into the hopper in order to discuss what this state's reaction is going to be when the leaders of various religious organizations croak. I will not offer that resolution. The Governor probably felt compelled to go along with what the President ordered, and I will not fault the Governor for having done that, so this is a wash. He did what the President said, but he's not a Catholic. So I don't feel that I lost entirely. And before any of you all who are Catholics get upset, your church needs to stay out of politics. You know the Vatican has representation at the U.N. You know America sends an ambassador to the Vatican. The Vatican is just another political organization to me. Priests, archbishops get involved in government. They get involved in campaigns. They injected themselves in former Senator Jennie Robak's campaign, spoke against her, did what they could to get her defeated. There might even be churches that provide sustenance for senators who carry out the church's will. They have several lobbyists out here. And you mean to tell me that I'm going to be intimidated and not mention the political, the heavy political role that the Catholic Church plays throughout this country and in this Legislature? Why, perish the thought. But I did have to correct those two items that I mentioned because I want to be sure that any time I make a declaration which is erroneous or even partially so, I should correct it in the same forum where that original misstatement, incorrect statement, or however way you want to characterize it, was made. Those