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April 5, 2005

LB 709

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, because sometimes I digress, I want to say at the outset that Senator Erdman's amendment is a giant step in the right direction, and I support it. It gives us a basis for additional work which may be needed, without having to deal with all of the kinds of things that are found in the green copy of the bill. I, however, cannot lay aside the green copy, because it states and gives the mind-set of those who originated the idea. An expression the old people had when I was much younger was that a drunk man speaks his sober thoughts. In other words, when John Barleycorn loosened the strings of the tongue and the mind, what was usually restrained or repressed would come tumbling out. So I'm keeping in mind, even as we adopt amendments which I think improve the bill by giving some direction and guidance to this study, what was in the green copy. I still think additional amendments need to be adopted, but I'm troubled, as I have been throughout this discussion, by the fact that those who are in favor of business giveaways are not willing to assure the body that we're not going to add another \$30 million to the current \$140 million that business groups suck out of the state every year, every year, and they're coming back for more. Well, what somebody might say is, well, when we're talking about business matters I wear that hat; when we talk about Medicaid reform I wear a different hat; if we talk about inadequate wages I wear a third hat. I say to that kind of an approach wear as many hats as you choose, but the same head is under every one of those hats, and the same mind is in the head which is in every one of those hats. We have to find a way as a Legislature to meld all of these issues and items when we're talking about something that LB 709 is going to address. I think that Senator Erdman has shown himself to be very "statespersonlike," willing to recognize realities and adapt to them to the extent that he feels that he can in good conscience. Senator Jensen, white-haired gentleman that he is...and I read an article about the fact that white or gray hair goes a longer way with older