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Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there are different ways to spell names. Belevedere is spelled B-e-l-e-v-e-d-e-r-e. There be Belevederes many, and many ways to spell it, but as I said the other day, if I had prairie dogs, every one of them would be named Belevedere so I'd only have to call out the name once and all of them would come. They would be trained and that way they wouldn't have to be killed. Senator Combs always makes some comments, at least one of which will cause me to struggle to maintain my composure, because I have to get up and speak again and I want to not seem that I'm just making jokes. I want to talk, as I said, a little bit about the U.S. Constitution and its coming together to try to give a notion of the significance of the constitution and its importance to the country and, by extrapolation, the importance of a state constitution to the health of the particular state. There were 55 delegates at the Constitutional Convention, but only 38 wound up signing. Some of them had signed the Declaration of Independence. And that convention lasted 115 days from May 25 to September 17, in the very hot summer of 1787 in Philadelphia. For the period before then, 1781 to 1787, the Articles of Confederation loosely put together the 13 colonies. They wanted a confederation because they were fighting to overcome what had happened when they had a foreign power, namely mother England, dictating what was going to happen with the colonies. So when they started trying to put together a government they wanted to make sure it was fragmented, was not too powerful, and could not reduce the colonies to absolute despotism, as they alleged in the Declaration of Independence had happened under England. They wanted a kind of congressional form of representation so that they could select whom they would send to the federal government, wherever it gathered, to see after their interests. Because they adopted Rousseau's idea of the social compact or contract, as some people say, that in a presocial setting every individual had absolute freedom and liberty to do as he or she felt, but because there were things, especially in the nature of security, that the individual could