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FLOOR DEBATE

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last night and worked on it some this morning, which Senator Brashear is presenting. Much in it is not clear to me. I'm not going to allow private enterprise and people who supposedly represent the public come together someplace and arrive at an agreement and an arrangement whose terms are not clear to me, and then I go along and I accept it. Not disparaging Senator Brashear, the work he did, or the work that the others did, but I'm not a rubber stamp. It makes me think of one of those congressional hearings and one of those thuggish people--I don't remember if it was Oliver North or which one of those "Repelicans" who had done things to undermine the country--was being questioned, and the lawyer for him made the comment with reference to himself, the lawyer: I'm not a potted plant. Well, that applies to me. The body went along with the bill that had far fewer consequences overall than this one does. This one involves future generations. I'm talking about that helmet bill. Voted for something they didn't even understand, they didn't know what was in it. Well, everybody on the floor except myself apparently understands this, but since I'm a member of this Legislature, I have always emphasized that we who are here should get the information we need to inform our judgment so that we can exercise an informed judgment and make informed decisions. So rather than seek to divide the question, primarily because the bill is so interrelated in all of its parts, I'm going to offer amendments to strike each section, and I'm going to have an explanation given to me of each section. My colleagues are too proud, too arrogant, or too lacking in care to require such an explanation. The big shots have gotten together, the smartest people have worked it out, and although the yeomen--that's the ordinary working people--don't know what's going on, there be those who do know what's going on, and those people have said it's all right, so the Legislature will rubber-stamp. Not I. So I am acknowledging here this morning my lack of preparedness to vote on this amendment or any portion of it. So my approach is going to be to take each one of these sections...and by the way, I don't care if you vote to cloture before I get an explanation of what I want. I'm still going to do all I can to get it. And if you cloture the bill before I get what I want, then I'm going to raise those issues on other bills, and nobody is going to have to answer them, but I'm going to raise them. I'm very keenly aware of how little time we have