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April 28, 2005 LB 645

We've got monopolies created all over this state that are regulated to compete against each other. How do monopolies compete against each other? Somebody help me out on this. Senator Bourne, you know. (Laugh) Help me out. What we're doing is possibly, I would submit, if we don't take action or if we don't proceed in a deliberate way, what we could possibly be doing is, in my opinion, promoting monopolistic type of business. Now with that in mind, what I would say is that if LB 645 isn't the answer, then maybe we can address it after this...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time is up, I'm sorry.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Brashear amendment. Senator Stuhr, followed by Senator Beutler.

Thank you, Mr. President and members of the SENATOR STUHR: body. I have appreciated the discussion this morning, and after looking at the amendment a little bit more thoroughly, I too have concerns about...I'm glad that we...there is a facilitator listed in the amendment, because it is very important. I did serve on the Water Policy Task Force. We would not have been able to do what we were able to accomplish without having a facilitator, and a very outstanding facilitator, to do that. What concerns me is, when I look at the fiscal note, there is no allowance for any money whatsoever, for the entire task force, unless I am not seeing something clearly. So that means there is no funds available to hire a facilitator that would be very important in this process, and I think that certainly is a key point. I too have problems with Section 2 and Section 3. It was my understanding that was one of the reasons that we were having the task force, was to look at both sides. I share the same concern that Senator Kopplin has, as far as the services being provided by public libraries. What about hospitals? I