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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 38

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I voted no on the bill this morning, and I will continue in that position. I just want to make it clear that "E clause" does not stand for "Ernie clause." My children, when they were real little, if they thought they got Christmas gifts by somebody who come down the chimney, they might say, not Santa Claus, but "Ernie Claus." However, that wasn't the case in my house. In this particular situation, I do not agree with the underlying premise of the bill itself. So I'm going to vote against the reconsideration motion. If that is successful, I will vote against...any time we vote on this bill, I'm going to vote red because the only votes that will be taken are those that would be designed to advance the bill. I don't know whether anybody else has any significant concerns about the bill. But this is the time to speak. As they say before somebody takes that plunge into the abyss: Speak now, or forever hold your peace. And the one about to take the leap doesn't have the courage, even though misguided, of that woman down in Duluth, Georgia, who decided, this is not for me, I'm getting out of here. They'll stand up there before the preacher, just hoping that somebody is going to speak up and give them a last-minute reprieve. But I have never seen that happen. On the floor of the Legislature, it is different. There is more at stake. If you oppose the bill, you should make it clear why, in my view. Generally, on Final Reading bills get an automatic green vote, because there is no reason, in most instances, not to vote green. This bill does have consequences. It does have ramifications. And because I'm not in agreement with what the bill is designed to do, I will continue to vote red. Maybe over the noonhour some people who voted red this morning will turn around and vote green instead. We'll have to wait and see. But I hope the bill does not get the 33 votes. And that is all, at this point, I will say, Mr. President. But I will wait and hear what others say. And I will indicate that I thought that Senator Connealy's dad was giving the prayer this morning, because Senator Cudaback kept saying "Father" this and "Father" that, and the only one other...the only other person mentioned was Senator Connealy. So I thought he was talking about Senator Connealy's dad. But I find out that I was mistaken. And I hope Senator Cudaback may have been mistaken, too. That's all that I have at this point. Thank you, Mr. President.