TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 4, 2005

LB 424

more they think about how uncomfortable they are, the less they think about the issue that's before them. Lobbyists have figured this out. They know that when the belly gets empty, the head empties along with it. But the funny thing, when the belly is full, the head remains empty. But they know that as senators start thinking about that good old food that the lobbyists are going to give them, as the day wears on, the senators fall into a kind of reverie. And I would call it "reverie" if I'm being kind. It's more like a coma. And all they think about is food. The night before Christmas, not just visions of sugarplums dancing in their head, but pizza, hamburgers, sausage, sandwiches. I'm trying to think of everything the lobbyists may feed them. Give them soda pop. Some of us say "pop," others say "soda water." I'm trying to cover the waterfront, so people know what it is that I'm talking about. And the senators start to get a feeling of euphoria. Not to the extent of somebody on meth. But the lobbyists administer--and I put it in quotation marks -- a type of "methamphetamine" to the senators when they feed them. They know that people who are laboring under the pangs of hunger are going to consider the ones who will relieve that hunger the greatest friends they have. So the lobbyists step into the breach, and they feed the hungry. There was a time when Jesus was having a talk with a guy named Peter. And I paraphrase these things. Peter, do you believe me? Yes, I believe you. Feed my sheep. Peter, do you trust me? Yeah, I trust you. Feed my sheep. That's from the "Bibble." lobbyists have taken that as their mantra. Do I want to have my hooks in the senators? Yes. Then I'll feed them like sheep. Then one says, no, no, sheep graze, and I think we need a trough-like analogy. I will feed them like feral pigs. No, you can't say "pigs." That's offensive. I will feed them like hogs. That's more like it. And I'll treat them like sheep. That's why the lobbyists have no respect for the Legislature. The hand that feeds, controls. The hand that feeds, controls.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: In other legislatures, lobbyists might have to spend money in a way that could be considered bribes. I don't think there's a person in this Legislature who would take a bribe. I don't think that level has to be reached by the