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LB 312

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Landis. Thank you, Mr. President. This is one of those sets of circumstances where I feel so strongly about this issue that I simply cannot let it go. The issue I'm talking about is the discrimination against people based on sexual orientation. I've been asked why I don't, if I must offer a provision, why I don't just offer a statement that says there should be no discrimination against any group. The others are already protected under the law. The law prohibits discrimination--race, religion, sex, age, other things. This group of people, by being left out of that laundry list, are made fair game for discrimination, and I think it is very unfair. I was talking with Senator Brown and Senator Mines about an article I saw in last night's paper. This mayor--and I think Senator Brown remembered he's from Spokane--extremely anti-gay rights, extremely, but he was accused a few years ago of molesting two boys, and a newspaper found out that he's currently using the trappings of his office, on the web, to try to pick up young boys for sexual liaisons. And yet he's got the nerve to say he's against gay and lesbian people being treated like human beings. So many times these people, who are going to say that being gay is the same as being a pedophile, may be projecting onto everybody else a deficiency in his or her own character. This amendment is not going to upset the business community.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Companies have sense enough to know that they should go where the talent is, and there is talent among every group of human beings on this earth. And we speak of groups, only because human beings, for whatever motives they have, have taken it into their heads to categorize, fractionate, and separate human beings into various camps, factions, and other groupings, always for the purpose of doing them harm. No group is set aside for the purpose of helping them to rise. So I'm looking at a group...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.