

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

May 23, 2005

LB 332

that's set by the constitution. And I offered amendments to change it, but you were so caught up in what Walt Radcliffe and Senator Landis were telling you that you ignored it. You ignored it. You need to learn to look at issues and not just at the fact that I raise them. Believe it or not, or to quote the new resident philosopher, Senator Mike Friend, guess what? Occasionally, my analysis is correct. Now you're scrambling to try to do something that ought to be done, but it did not have to be this way. You look at the moment. That's why the Legislature has grown weak, it is not respected by the other two branches, because you all can be so easily herded and stampeded and blinded to what the broader view ought to be, the bigger issues. Don't look at gambling only when that is the thing before us as an issue. Look at it when it comes up in other contexts, when your hands can be tied and you'll be limited in the approaches you can take. But, no, you don't listen. I'm working on a rhyme. There was a guy. He said, of the saddest words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: what might have been. Another one took a play on that. He said, the coldest words of tongue or pen are these: I knew him when. Mine will say something like, the coldest words, the saddest you know, now savor the sweetest: I told you so. But you all don't listen. You won't listen. So I look at you like the children playing in the sandbox. Teacher tried to tell you where you were going. You said, teacher can go shove it. So now here you come and I watch you. And I think about things other than this one issue. I think about the way black children are treated in school; how books, essays, and other things come out in print talking about the inferiority of nonwhite peoples; then I'm standing in this Legislature, as the only black man, trying to get you to play by your rules and use your sense, and I cannot do it because you cannot accept what I say. Well, I'm going to rub your face in it and remind you it did not have to be this way, but you were snookered by a lobbyist, you were bedazzled by Senator Landis. He said no amendments, and you echoed no amendments, no amendments. And I also pointed out to you that when you tied the money that can go for environmental and whatever those other purposes are into a named existing statute, I told you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.