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The saddest and coldest words you know, sample the sweetest: I told you so. Ernie Chambers, May 23, 2005. I'm going to tell you again, after having said it this morning. Now, don't get angry at me because I'm pointing out these realities. Either you want to put something on the ballot,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...or you don't. We'll see if any of these other propositions will garner 30 votes. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. On with discussion of the Smith amendment. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. Somebody asked me why I didn't speak more forcefully, perhaps, on the Stuhr amendment. And the reason I didn't speak more forcefully is because I think there are some...there were some good arguments...I don't mean for the Smith amendment, I mean for the Stuhr amendment, there were some good arguments for it. And I'm not necessarily...wasn't necessarily opposed. I just happen to agree with Senator Chambers that the cleanest and clearest amendment that we can put on the ballot will be the most readily acceptable to the citizens. I think Senator Smith has a very interesting proposal with his amendment. And in fact, I've told him that I think it's a good way to perhaps sell the amendment that originally...the bill as it was originally written, with the \$24,000, because it gives you some idea of what we're actually asking for. And it depends on whose poverty lines you follow. But I think if you follow the federal ones, which most everybody does, it would be a \$19,000 for a family of four, and approximately, what is it, \$24,000 at 125 percent of poverty. So you know, we're falling somewhere close to there. Again, I have to reiterate, we talked about \$24,000 six or seven years ago, or whenever it was it came up before. But this is later. This is later. And I gave you the figures earlier about what that \$12,000 in 1988 would buy. Then, with \$12,000 worth of goods, it would cost over \$19,000 now to buy the same amount of goods. And we're not even into 2006, when this will be on