

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 478

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend Senator Cornett's amendment. (FA306, Legislative Journal page 1776.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, while waiting for that one to be put on the gadget, let me tell you the role that I play around here, because Senator Cornett and some of our rookies were not here when some of this nefarious activity was going on. From time to time, my colleagues have decided that they should change the rules to shut me up, to shut me down. And I'd mock them and tell them the example I'd always give of Houdini. They'd wrap him, put chains around him, padlocked him, put him in a big old box, wrapped chains around that box, put that in a burlap, and with one of these large cranes, put it out over the ocean and drop it. And after enough time had passed for him to either suffocate or drown, they would pull it out of the water, bring it back over land, set it gently down. They would take off the canvas covering, they would unlock the locks that had secured the chains around the box, they would open the box, and voila, Houdini was gone. The box and the chains and the locks could not contain him. So I told them that's the way it would be with all their rule changes. They wouldn't contain me. So they had a rule change that they were working on. And I knew what they were trying to do, and I read the rule as they had...were going to amend it. I said, this doesn't even do what you're talking about doing. If you want to do what you're talking about doing, this is the way you need to amend it. Shamefaced, they had to acknowledge it, and take the amendment that I had drafted. Then I laughed at them. I said, if I'm going to help construct a jail, do you think I'm going to build a cell from which I cannot escape? You don't even know how to do what you're trying to do. But even if you do it, it won't stop me. To his credit, Senator Landis used to try to explain to them that that really wasn't going to work and achieve what they wanted, which was to shut me up. I said that to say this. I'm now dealing with a bill that I don't even like. They had these high-powered defense contractors in here talking to the committee, speaking for this bill. Why, they've got some of the