

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

June 2, 2005

LR 98

campaigning for. But this wasn't his first election, and I truly believe that when you run for an election you certainly do abide by the laws. And I remember the first campaign report that I needed to have submitted and, being my first report, I was a little late and understood the fine. And I certainly couldn't afford the fine. I don't remember if I paid it or not. I...it was taken care of, regardless of what it was, but I saw that it didn't happen again. And if you violate the laws, campaign laws, in the primary and you slap your hands, and you do it again in the general because you feel that you can afford to pay the fine because the fine is less ominous to you than the crime, then we need to sit back and look, what is the intent of this. Why are we doing what we're doing? Do we look in the mirror and say, are we doing the right thing? Can Mr. Hergert look in the mirror and say that he did the right thing? And I think as we make this decision here, we have to do the right thing because that's what it's all about--doing the right thing. I also serve on the Executive Board and prior to going into that meeting I was lobbied by the lobbyist that represented Mr. Hergert. Looking at us as a juror, I don't believe, as a jury, we need to have influence from outside. We have to make the decisions that we have to make. Does money buy everything, buy the best attorney, buy the best lobbyist to get what we want? That's not what we're all about. We're all about doing the right thing. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Preister and others.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I categorically reject the argument there are not two sides to the impeachment question. The whole strategy of the lobbyist and the lawyers has been to get you to believe that there's not two sides to that argument; therefore, you delete Section 4 of the resolution. Clearly, that's the strategy. And let me try, I'm going to try to take you through, as best I can, why I believe absolutely that's not true. And let me tell you...to begin with, let me ask you to think about the way the law works. There is the law. I passed out to you the constitutional provision and I'd like you to find that on your desk because I want to kind of go through it with you a little bit. But