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LR 26, 98

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Further discussion? Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. Earlier this session Senator Beutler offered a constitutional amendment, LR 26CA, which provides that civil officeholders may be impeached for campaign violations. I wasn't aware of that CA until recent days, when we started to get into some of these issues, and I don't know where that sits. Obviously, it's had a public hearing. I don't know if there's been a vote taken or not. I don't think there has been a vote taken. But I would support that. I would certainly support what Senator Beutler is trying to do with that constitutional amendment. And I think in the offering of that constitutional amendment, Senator Beutler is at least acknowledging that there is a very significant legal issue here about whether or not a person can be impeached for something he did prior to assuming office. And in the transcript of the hearing on that constitutional amendment, Senator Beutler indicated that he was going to be requesting an Attorney General Opinion on this whole matter of when and under what circumstances an officeholder can be impeached, and I would hope we would go forward with that as well. I think we do need to get an Opinion from the Attorney General on that critical question. So I support what Senator Beutler is doing in that area. I'm also very intrigued and supportive of the notion that Senator Landis tossed on the floor, which is the possibility of drafting a resolution of censure. That might be the way to go here. When I opened up on my amendment well over an hour ago, I was not aware that Senator Bourne was going to offer another option to us, and that's an interesting option. I wonder if Senator Bourne would yield to a question or some dialogue.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, would you respond?

SENATOR BOURNE: Certainly.

SENATOR FOLEY: Senator Bourne, I'm kind of interested in one of the ideas that you've tossed out for us and that is to take out the whole issue of impeachment, at least in the immediate sense,...