

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

January 9, 2006 LB 542

society deals too much in sloganeering, too much in superficiality. In the classrooms, children are not taught to read. I don't mean just let their eyes pass over a page and be able to recite the words, or articulate the words, but gather some understanding or comprehension of what those words are expressing, to use the words and the sentences and the paragraphs like construction material and come up with an intellectual edifice that makes more understood than what was understood before. If we join in with the shortsighted, uninformed, misinformed public, and denigrate and downgrade what the Legislature does, we are doing a disservice because we know better. We will jest with each other. I probably more than anybody else will be extremely critical, sarcastic, satirical, mocking, taunting. But the purpose...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is to arrive at a goal which I think in the end is going to uplift the Legislature and what it is we do. Those are tactics or means to reach an end; they are not an end in themselves, and if it was not necessary to use those approaches, I would not. But I've been here long enough to know what it takes to get from point A to point B. We should not undermine this branch of government, which the U.S. Supreme Court itself has acknowledged is the only one that represents the people. The executive branch does not represent the people. The Governor or the President, in either case, serves the people by executing the laws, but they...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...don't represent the people. The courts serve the people by interpreting the laws.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The legislators serve the people through direct election. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Burling, on the Chambers amendment. Senator Burling, you're