

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

January 9, 2006 LB 542

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. You all know what it means when the Speaker goes into that chair, don't you? In merry old England, which was not always merry, and they were still as uncivilized as America is right now and had a death penalty, whenever a judge was going to pronounce a death sentence, the judge would put a black cap on his head. The executioner has assumed his position. We know what that means. Now let me call your attention to something that happened earlier. I had offered an amendment to raise the membership from 16 to 516. Thirty-two people voted against it. Thirty-two people would not be enough to invoke cloture. Do people love this bill more than they hated my amendment? They hated...32 of them hated my amendment. Do 33 love this bill? This is the tax-cutting session. You're going to spend \$100,000 on nothing. All of the serious issues we have to grapple with should be kept in mind. I'm going to get my time, one way or the other. So you may move this on today, but it is not home safely. I do not have the opportunity to sit in the seat of the executioner, so I have to do my work down here among the hoi polloi, of which I am a member. I'm curious to see how my conservative colleagues, especially, vote. I've made much of this being the so-called tax-cutting session, and there are people who have been running around talking about how they want to cut taxes. I want to watch how Mr. Smith votes. You know why I call him Mr. Smith? Because Mr. Smith goes to Washington; Senator Smith can't go to Washington. I'm going to see what kind of conservative he is. Is he going to say, well, I'm a conservative because I want to spend this money to talk about taxes and talk about doing something better, so I'm willing to spend \$100,000 for it? I'm going to watch my good friend Senator Redfield, because she said something earlier, but I didn't hear for sure whether she suggested her support for this measure. If you would read it, just read it, you would see that it's not in the shape it needs to be in. Suppose I had accommodated what everybody may have liked and not done anything with the bill? There are changes that have been made, there are additional changes that should be made, if you're going to use this thing. And as the day wore on, the amendments took on a different nature. The debate took on a different tone. I'd become mellow, if you will, but I can also be provoked. All of us can be.