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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is an amendment to the rules which would strike from the rules the position of Chaplain Coordinator. This proposal that I'm offering, in a way, goes back to a period when two "Chrishian" gentlemen were battling in a very acrimonious manner to have the paid position of praying over the senators every morning. It split the Legislature. Senators were arguing back and forth. One had been the chaplain for a long time, and he was paid \$300-something a month to come in here and pray over the senators. Ultimately, I filed a lawsuit in federal court to get rid of the paid chaplain, the printed prayer books, and the prayers. What the district court ruled was that prayers in legislatures have been going on for so long and they have no religious significance whatsoever, they serve a secular purpose, that the prayers could continue to be mouthed, but the preacher couldn't be paid. I think during my testimony I had mentioned how the "Holly Bibble" says: Freely you received; freely give. So if they freely received all this stuff from God, then they ought to at least be willing to pray for nothing. And the prayers accomplish nothing anyway. The matter was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said that not only could the prayers be uttered, but you can pay the rascal for praying. Before it went to the U.S. Supreme Court, some of the senators decided that not paying the prayer, "pray-er," was a good thing, so the Legislature got away from paying a "pray-er." And they also decided it would be best not to have a formal "chap-lain." They created the position of Chaplain Coordinator, and this was a guy who was supposed to trawl, or troll, the churches and see if some people could be found who'd come over here and pray over the senators for nothing. Well, as they began to come over here and pray, they found out they were praying basically to the chairs, to the desks, to the walls, to the ceilings, to the pillars, to the flags, but very few senators, who were insistent on having prayer every morning, were here. They were all some place else, doing things that were far more important than participating in their "Chrishian"