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January 10, 2006

SENATOR CUDABACK: I did say one minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. I'll cede that, and then turn my light on.

SENATOR CUDABACK: We are debating the Chambers amendment. Open for discussion. Senator Kruse, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. strong... I stand to strongly support the Chambers amendment. frankly was startled by our vote a little bit ago, and it becomes clear to me that we do not understand what's going on. I prefer this amendment to his previous amendment, because in my judgment, this Section 22 should be removed from our rules, absolutely. It has not been used, and if it were to be used, I would strongly object, because what it says is that the Coordinator shall work with organized groups of clergy. there's quite a few clergy that are not organized. That's a straight line any of you can follow up on. (Laugh) I have personally sought out Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist persons that would come and pray for us. They are not in an organized group. They should be here. They represent some of our constituents. I was in the... I know that this hasn't been used, because for five years, I was the person for the United Methodists of Nebraska that would have been contacted to do this. I was never contacted by anybody in this Legislature to help provide those who would pray for the Legislature. It was not done. I would remind you how it is presently done. The Clerk's Office sends each of us a letter inviting the senators, which I really appreciate, which is the broad approach, allows me to nominate anybody from my district. They don't have to be organized. Some have thought, because I recruited some of these persons, was the de facto coordinator of prayer for the Legislature. Some within this body have thought that. upon you the clear fact that I am not. I have nothing to do with that. I would not want to have anything to do with it. am embarrassed that we still have this kind of a rule. Not terribly embarrassed. I'd be more embarrassed if we were actually doing it. But we're not doing it. And this in no way affects the prayers, the presence of prayers, you know, all the