

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

January 10, 2006

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the body was considering the adoption of the permanent rules. Specifically under consideration was an amendment from Senator Chambers to strike Rule 1, Section 22.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, your light was...your light was on to speak, and we will continue where we left off, so you are recognized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Which time is this for me, Mr. President?

SENATOR CUDABACK: This is your second 5 minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. I'm caught up to where this particular one is. This that I'm reading is mainly for the record. I don't expect my colleagues to listen. You see how sparse the attendance is here? We have more than 50 percent of the members, but when you look around you see empty chairs. What do you think that preacher feels up there, and he sees nothing but empty chairs, desks full of books, but no victims behind them? But I'm going to read from this article, and although I identified it earlier, I'm going to identify it again. It appeared in the Lincoln Journal Star, page 1F, March 4, 2000, written by Bob Reeves. I'm going to pick up right where I left off. Johnson, who was then the Chaplain Coordinator, as it was called, got himself in trouble several years ago by quoting the ill-conceived, so-called prayer of a so-called chaplain in Kansas. Chambers and some other senators chastised Johnson for using that prayer, and Johnson vowed never again to use a prayer written by someone else. Boyd Pelley, P-e-l-l-e-y, associate pastor of New Covenant Community Church, Southern Baptist, said he usually does not write prayers down, but did his invocation for the Legislature because of the importance of the message. In his prayer, he asked God to "give this august body a sense of right and wrong, based not only on human insight, but on your design for human relationships and leadership, as well," which means precisely nothing. In an interview afterward, Pelley said he wanted to stress the importance of "the authority of God" over all men, especially elected officials. Then I add this because sometimes I edit when people make mistakes, except Ernie Chambers. Quote from Pastor Pelley: "I didn't necessarily