

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

January 10, 2006

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Engel, are you present?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yeah, he's over there talking.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Engel, would you yield to a question, please, from Senator Thompson?

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes, Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: I am not familiar with how long it has been that senators gave the prayer instead of members of the clergy. They were kind of filling in, and then, about a year or so ago, senators were doing it pretty much the majority of the time.

SENATOR ENGEL: Well, I...

SENATOR THOMPSON: Could you tell me how that developed?

SENATOR ENGEL: Well, I really can't tell you exactly, but I've been here about 12 years, and ever since I came down here, there's been a combination of inviting different chaplains, priests, and so forth down here, and the senators filling in. So I've...it's been going on for many years, and I think the last...I guess we would have to refer that to...who's been...well, Senator Chambers, I guess. I don't think anybody else has been around here that long, so, or Senator Beutler.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Okay. It just seems like it's been a lot more, to me. That's just maybe my perception. What you're saying is that...I guess I thought it seemed like it was becoming more senators than clergy in the last couple of years.

SENATOR ENGEL: Well, I think it has been this last year or two. I believe it has been, and of course, the Clerk's Office notifies each and every one of us--you get that letter, too--that...

SENATOR THOMPSON: Um-hum.

SENATOR ENGEL: ...anyone you'd like to invite, invite them. And of course, we send out letters to our clergy in our