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January 17, 2006 LB 57

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, Oscar Wilde said a poet can stand anything except to be misquoted. I'm going to read the comment, if I can locate it, beside...next to what this reporter wrote. This appeared in the Journal Star, January 14, 2006, on page 1B, and it continued on page 2B, and it's on 2B that the offending words occur. Quote,...and this is in quotation marks: "Are we going to place value on a human life prior to birth?" Foley responded a moment later, "Senator Chambers says, 'No, trash it.'" This is the comment I wrote in the margin: This is an example of the kind of slapdash "reporting" that I railed against during debate on LB 57. The reporter created the impression that Senator Foley quoted me, and the failure of the reporter to print my repudiation and condemnation of Senator Foley's misrepresentation created the additional impression that my lack of response confirms the "truth" of Senator Foley's words. The reporter should keep his personal predilections out of his "reporting." What he did is inexcusable. Reporters are people with a job. They get paid for what they do, and like every other craft, trade, there are those who take seriously what they're about, and there are those who do not. This person did not, and I'm not going to let it go. Whenever somebody wrongs me, I'm going to respond. If it's the Governor, if it's the Attorney General, if it's the judge, if it's the Speaker, or anybody else, I don't owe it to anybody to let a person misrepresent me, especially when he knows better. I often talk about my advanced age, and how everybody is younger than I am. But that doesn't mean everybody is an adolescent, a juvenile, a toddler, or an infant. There are people who can be way up in age and nevertheless, be younger than I am. So I'm not talking about a tyro here, I'm talking about a man who's been grown for a long, long, long, long time, and he knows better. And if he didn't before, he's going to know it now. He will be the topic of what I say on the floor of the Legislature, as will anybody else. I have another rascal that I'm going to talk about this morning, and his name is Stenberg, a former senator for "Norfork," as he used to call it. "Norfork." Used to call him "Stinkberg," not trying to be funny. That's just the way he mispronounced the man's name. But sometimes what are called Freudian slips reflect the truth...