

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

January 18, 2006 LB 57

person holding a high position in the church is going to do as American bishops and American archbishops have done, which is to take the malefactor and quietly transfer him from parish to parish, providing more victims and never notifying the people, whose children were placed at risk, that a ravening wolf, a sexual predator, a criminal, was being placed among them. But because this man was not charged with a crime, not convicted of a crime, he need not register as a sexual predator. But if...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the diocese in Juneau conducted an investigation, witnesses testified, and the defrocked priest agreed that most of what the witnesses said was accurate, and the evidence was so overwhelming that the tolerant, accepting Vatican kicked this man out, you know he had to be a bad, bad actor. But despite the fact that a priest did bad things, nothing in the way of a negative allegation can be made against Bishop Michael Warfel, who took appropriate action to see that a bad situation was corrected and, going beyond that, to defend and protect the victim from a malicious lawsuit which would victimize the man twice. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator. You've heard the opening on FA203, offered by Senator Chambers to LB 57. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Borrowing phraseology from a conservative "Repelican," now for the rest of the story. In an article in the World-Herald dated January 13, on page 4B--I read all the newspaper; that's why I see these little bitty things--written by Bill Hord, H-o-r-d, of the World-Herald, headline: Ex-Priest Issues Denial of Abuse. Remember, they couldn't find him when this was going on. Reading from the article: A former Catholic priest, now a law student at Creighton University, Thursday denied allegations of sexual misconduct. Michael Patrick Nash issued a statement Thursday saying he has, quote, never molested any child or adult at any time or at any place. Any statement, innuendo, or suggestion to the contrary is not true, unquote. So that means Bishop Michael Warfel was lying, the Vatican was lying, and this