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FLOOR DEBATE

January 30, 2006 LB 85

amendments have been adopted. Mr. Clerk, anything further on the bill?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Nothing further.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Back to discussion, advancement of LB 85. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I remember bits and pieces of some things, but not in detail. There was something in one of the plays that Shakespeare wrote, and it was something like a riddle, but it could be taken seriously. This person was saying, it's not as deep as a well, it's not as wide as a church door, but it will serve the purpose. When you inquire after me tomorrow, you will find that I am a grave man. So it's clear he was describing a grave. But Shakespeare had kind of a different way of doing that. People throughout history have had fun dealing with that grave subject. I think the most barbaric practices in this society surround the way dead people are handled and disposed of. They have all of this practice of treating a corpse with more respect than they ever treated the person who inhabited that dead clay when that person was walking, talking, breathing. So many things are skewed in this society. In those cultures where they don't have a lot of land, and in others where it's their practice, and corpses are burned, that is wise. People know that death has come, that death is a part of this process of being a human being, and nobody is going to escape death. So instead of surrounding it with all this mumbo jumbo, this stuff of sitting around a room with a box and a corpse in it, having what they call visitation and viewing, and the corpse is looking horrific, then they cart the corpse into a church and somebody stands up there, and may not even know who the person was who's there, and has these stock boilerplate phrases: he or she will be greatly missed; oh, he did the best he could, she did the best she could. And what they ought to do is tell the truth: I hope he ain't where I think he is, and I hope he is where I know he ain't, and let that be it. That's enough said. But people have to fabricate. They pretend that they cared about the person. And in many instances, if those who come around with all the tears and the pretended caring had genuinely cared, maybe they could have