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LB 248

road kill this session, because I'm not going anywhere on this bill. And there are other issues that I will link to this bill. If there are others who have considered various parts and aspects of this bill and deemed those things to be worthy of salvaging, give me back status quo for Omaha. Do I have grievances against Omaha? More bitter and deep than anybody on this floor can imagine. Omaha has run roughshod over black people and the community of which I'm a part, for all of the years that I'm conscious of having lived in Omaha, and I've been conscious at least 120 years. I claim 68 for some purposes. I have grievances against the Omaha Public School system, but I'm not going to undermine public education and throw out the baby with the bathwater because of those grievances that I have, either against OPS or the city of Omaha. If they have, as a city, incompetent people representing them and their interests down here, I'm not going to let the people suffer because the ones at the top are not doing the job they ought to do. But it's mighty tempting. You know why it's mighty tempting? Because, although I will talk about power, it would be wonderful to say, watch me stick it to Omaha. I will bury Omaha so deeply they can't get anything out of this Legislature. But I'm also the one who will harangue my colleagues and talk about the obligation we have to be teachers, to set a standard and an example. And in this fight, the interests and welfare of the people at large in Omaha are much more important to me than Hawkins, Peter Kiewit, and any of the others. So I'm willing to stand in front of them, let them get me in their sights, and let them do the worst that they can possibly do to me. Let me amend that. Let them try. And what they need to understand is that if I'm not killed graveyard dead, they're going to have me to contend with on this and other issues that are of interest and concern to them. They play rough. They threaten people. Well, let them do it to me or try to do it to me. And I'm just in the mood now. Old people are entitled to have moods, brothers and sisters. I'm old, and I feel a mood coming on. And I'm going to have the opportunity to talk to Senator Baker when we're not in the crackling cauldron of legislative debate and remind him of those things which he claims are of value in this bill, and see if he thinks that those for whom he is carrying water on this anti-Omaha and other city amendment, if what their interests are trump the interests of those he claims to be