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LB 57

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of Senator Foley's efforts, and I hope that we can make a decision here, hopefully in the affirmative, to advance LB 57 to Final Reading. As we sift through the issues that we address, some of them are fiscal, some of them are social, some of them seem important to some of us, some of them don't, and we always have to make those decisions one at a time. And it's always interested me in how our work here in the Legislature is perceived outside the Legislature. But I think it's important that we balance issues like this, or balance the fiscal issues. If we only worked on fiscal issues and didn't address other issues, I think we would be "remissant" of our responsibilities. When we look at the overlap, perhaps, of social issues and fiscal issues, perhaps criminal issues come into play, and this would be one of those issues, but when we look at the record of how we treat animals in Nebraska, how we look at our statutes...and I was especially compelled by Senator Foley's speech at the end of General File, when he pointed out the difference of how we treat animals compared to unborn children. I felt that was probably a very good analogy, and very accurate. And when we look at...at the end of the day, at the end of the session, at the end of, perhaps, many of our legislative careers in not too long, I think we need to look back and look at a balance of issues, and I think that LB 57 certainly does address that. So I hope that we don't avoid a vigorous debate. I hope that we can tackle the tough issues. But as we move forward, I hope that we can vote in the affirmative on LB 57, because it's good policy, it's achievable policy, enforceable policy, and we can move forward in an affirmative way. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further discussion on the Chambers amendment? Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the body, oh, if it were so easy. Oh, if it were so easy. Actually, Senator Foley, I'm not a bit surprised that...of the aggression where pregnant women are involved. I think it's really quite common, and that's one of the reasons why I had a question the last time this was brought up on the floor, is that there still are things