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life and be a productive member of society, and that's what this is all about--helping those who are in need. I don't know what to think about the discussion this morning, but I believe that this needs to be aired out. And there is a concern here, because there is a concern about what is happening in our Legislature and I don't feel as though it is a good thing that's happening this morning. I wish it hadn't have happened. I wish the arguments we had the last couple of days would have come to a better understanding, but apparently not. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Foley and Johnson. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker...or Mr. President, members of the body. You know, yesterday Senator Jensen spoke from the heart to this body about how his views have changed on the issue of AIDS, and how he never really thought, when he first came to the Legislature, that he'd ever be a senator who'd be standing up talking about that particular issue and how much money we should be putting into it to help the people who have AIDS. And I can tell you when I first got to the Legislature, I was terrified of this issue. Any issue that dealt with abortion, I never had to speak about it. I never had to talk about it. I never publicly talked about issues of human sexuality. But you know, it's nine years later and I'm a different person. I've been to the prisons, I've been to every detention center in the state, I've been to homeless shelters, I've been to shelters for abused children. I've seen a lot of things that I would never have seen if I had not been a member of the Legislature, and it's changed my ability to talk about things that I really would prefer not to. And I think that's probably not untrue of all of you. We ran for office because...for me it was to improve public education, it was to look at health issues for people and economic development. But we have a responsibility to be taking on all the issues, some of which are kind of uncomfortable and some of which are, quite frankly, pretty much unappreciated. We're advocating for people who can't speak for themselves, who don't become politically active. I mean they are all of our responsibility. And this issue was brought to us in a different set of clothes and now,