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FLOOR DEBATE

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Chambers about it briefly after everything went down. But I almost wanted to retrace my steps for a second. I came back in here. I think we, you know, debated, I think the debate went on for approximately two hours. I was out in the lobby working on two different things. We just got done with natural gas discussion and then I was working on some DUI legislation. And I sat down and I looked at Senator Redfield. I said, what are we doing here? And she said, well, this amendment dices up OPS into three different districts. I said, (cough) excuse me? Two hours! Let's retrace those steps. Sixty-day session, we go into the sixty-day session knowing that this thing was upon us. We knew it was there and we knew we were going to be dealing with these types of issues in a short 60-day session. Why are we surprised that we're under the gun right here, or under the thumb? There was a hearing on January 30. A plethora of bills came through there, we all remember the day, and then LB 1024 emerges on March 29 and placed on General File--LB 1024, if I didn't say that right--a 154-page bill that I just finished reading last week, not because I'm a slow reader but because I didn't get to it until last week. I am probably a slow reader, too, but I didn't get to it until last week, a 154-page bill. Now, on Thursday, we go into a debate for approximately two hours, like I said, and we adopt what we could...what could certainly be considered in a lot of circles, our circles, what certainly could be considered major reform, at least from the standpoint of statutory or legislative reform. This is big. That's why I coughed when I came back in. I said, what, are you kidding me, after two hours of debate? Now, last year we dealt with Class I schools, a 90-day session and it took every minute of it. We remember. And guess what, it's still going on, to a degree. Conceal and carry, how long has that been bounced around the walls of this Legislature? A decade? Senator Chambers can speak to that. He's been here awhile and he can speak to that issue. A resolution this year? Maybe. But maybe next year somebody will come back and say that was a bad resolution, let's deal with it again. I've been here four years. It's the first time I've actually seen an income tax cut come our way. We were able to achieve that. Four years and I've never seen a hike to the minimum wage. What Senator Beutler just tried to do, it took him two hour...he got thrown to the...right to the wall for trying to do something that he