

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006      LB 1024A

this time, and look at the process. And I also added that on occasion, the process takes priority over the substantive issue and that is what happened. The session has very few hours left. We don't even need to speak in terms of days. There are some issues which must be addressed one way or another. The issue that has loomed over this Legislature, even before we came into session in January, was the series of events set in motion by an act of OPS. I told the media at the outset I would not allow the Legislature to repeal that 1891 law, and my saying that is not arrogance. I can look at the division of the house and I know you can't get 33 votes. I took the position. OPS had also heard me say that I want to see public education kept strong because most of the people I'm interested in and most other people's children are going to attend public schools, so the public school system or public education must be maintained inviolate to the extent that is possible. OPS jumped from that to take it to mean I endorse everything OPS does. OPS is not the public education system. OPS is not public education. OPS is the poor administrator of public education in Omaha right now. And I had it on good authority from people who had heard them say it, chortling in their early days that they had "the man" on their side, meaning me. I've never been on OPS' side. I declared my position and it was not on the side of the suburban people or the side of OPS. I wanted, as a representative of a dispossessed, disadvantaged...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...discriminated-against group, to take advantage of an opportunity which had presented itself to me to procure for those people that which none of my efforts had come close to procuring before, due to the fact that I was dealing with an arrogant outfit who spat in the face of the Legislature, spat in the face of the suburban districts. And I don't care about them, they got a lot of representatives down here, they can take care of themselves. But you all should realize as I suggested yesterday, if they're going to disregard the Legislature, disregard these combined suburban districts, it shouldn't surprise you when I tell you how they disregard and dismiss black parents, the parents of poor white children, the parents of Latino children. I'm not going to turn away from the