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

April 11, 2006 LB 1024

Legislature can call itself into special session. Maybe we can the session. But I don't see anything in the constitution that authorizes the Legislature to call itself into session. The Governor can do that and the regular sessions are established pursuant to explicit language in the constitution. So all this talk of putting it off until a future date is the strategy of OPS and it has been their strategy. When they thought they had prevailed yesterday, they were arrogant. felt they didn't have to talk to anybody, and that carried over until today. Then when they began to see the tide shift, that's when you heard Senator Bourne, who is the chief water carrier and he'll acknowledge it, got the message that we should now have our fallback position which is to stall. How do you know there will even be a special session? How are people going to agree 60 days or 90 days from now what they haven't agreed on since June of last year and all of this session in-between? The barking, sniping, and snarling over the fences that separate OPS from these suburban districts? How in the world are you all who are politicians such as I am, you might deny it, anybody who practices the art of politics is a politician. I am a practical politician. And the reality is that this Legislature and nobody else can make a deal with the public whereby they will say, we won't start and prosecute an initiative petition. What are you going to do? Are you going to go to somebody or a group who are determined in the suburbs to do that and say, well, Senator Bourne said that he and Senator Flood and some of the others, Senator Friend, have agreed that you all won't start a petition. They say what? We're not going to start a petition because a bunch of people down in the Legislature say we shouldn't start it? Well, what can you show us that you did? You were on the way to doing something, then you got cold feet because OPS put the lumber to you and you said, let's stop everything. Let's do nothing and let's say we'll put it off until 90 days from now. You're not going to get anybody to forgo an initiative petition, and you really don't know whether there will be one. That could have been one of those ruses...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...floated by the suburban administrators. But what they do is of no moment. What people circulating a