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FLOOR DEBATE

April 12, 2006 LR 449

all redundant representation--a house and a senate all have that. Throughout this nation it's redundant representation. Here's where we're at; here's what we have in front of us today, for speed purposes. A person who violated campaign finance laws has been punished under the provisions of that law for those violations. A special independent council appointed provides an opinion that, for lack of a better term right now, exudes an idea that, hey, this guy violated the law, he didn't do it in office, he's been punished; now I understand your concern, but you have to let it go, or you should let it go. A legislature possibly acting today to ostensibly overturn the vote of the people cuts to the heart of this debate, that I'm going to bring up, not just this year, not just touch on it, it's coming up in the future, of the unicameral and bicameralism. It's...this is a political issue. A few years ago President Bill Clinton was impeached by one house of our legislative...one branch...one house of a branch of our legislative government. President Clinton lied under oath; the House brings impeachment papers, passes those on to the Senate. The Senate looks at them, tries that case, and votes against that recommendation. And the Supreme Court, for all intents and purposes, was an unelected body, by the way--we all know that--is spared a political and vitriolic partisan issue. And we know that's what it is. Whether we believe President Clinton should have been ousted out of office or not, it was political, it was vitriolic, and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: ...that's what happened, and it was the right answer. They came up with the right answer. The system worked. Last night the system did not work. The system isn't going to work again on Thursday, because we're going to pass that bill, and if we impeach this person, who I've never met, it is arguable that the system has failed us again, that we have not provided the sufficient checks and balances that we need to do the job that we have to do. This impeachment is a tool of the Unicameral, but it is a hammer drill into drywall, empty drywall. Thirty votes, a supermajority; thirty-three votes, even better, to provide the type of check, the provide the type of balance that a unicameral, the only one in this nation, can have to prevent a miscarriage of justice. Now...