

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

April 12, 2006 LR 449

right. I mean I just feel I don't know where to begin to respond to you because it's all so totally off base. The problems were brought on by Regent Hergert, by what he did, and we have sought today to describe, time and time again, the behaviors and the law, and how it all fits together. Nobody is persecuting anybody. The Accountability Commission doesn't have favorites. I don't have favorites. This is a Republican primary, as far as partisan politics is concerns. I mean, I just...I'm just astounded that you have weaved this conspiratorial theory involving so many different elements and conclude that that's what this is all about. That is not what this is all about. This is about the duty of the Legislature to uphold the election laws. There is no more important duty that we have. The power of impeachment is given to us. It wasn't given to somebody else. Either we exercise it or we don't. And the question is whether it should be exercised in the case of Regent Hergert. I happen to think that there's strong reason to do that. Senator Brashear may think there was strong reason to do that in the case of Senator...of Regent Miller, but this body, at the time, didn't think that those...thought that that violation rose to the same level. It was a \$6,000 fine. This is a \$33,000 fine. I mean, at some point you've got to say stop or the election laws become totally a joke.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Where do you say stop? That's what we're trying to decide here today. And I think we all owe it to each other to recognize that we're all motivated by the right motivations, not by some kind of embarrassing conspiratorial theory. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler and Senator Janssen. Senator Connealy, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, almost five minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Thank you,