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

April 12, 2006 LR 449

Regent Hergert's district, can move on. This is probably one of the most difficult speeches I've made, certainly decisions that I've made (laugh) on this, my last day in the Legislature, because I do have a planned absence tomorrow. But as I look back, the debate last year, the course of events prior till now, I have to weigh everything. And I must say that when we...let me speak in first person singular, when I would ask that Mr. Hergert resign via the resolution or we look at other legal advice on what should take place, and that legal advice comes down and recommends some action or no action, however you would like to characterize it, but that these are not impeachable offenses, that's pretty serious. Because an attempt to overturn the wishes of the voters is even more serious business. reside in Regent Hergert's district. I can tell you that the voters go both ways on this issue. Strong opinions out there both ways. Some of it's based on anecdotal background; some of it isn't. I have to wonder if the activities that took place truly would have changed the outcome of the election. convinced that they would have or that, had these activities not taken place, that we would have a different outcome in the election. And I am constantly trying to weigh back and forth, but up till now I remain unconvinced that these offenses are impeachable. I want resolution brought to this issue as soon as possible and I think that voting no on the impeachment will allow us to move forward. I think this is a healthy debate. I'm not afraid to participate. (Laugh) It'd be a lot easier to take a walk down the hall and avoid tough decisions, but that's not why I'm here. So when we look at these issues and we...and we sift through all of them...and I will never impugn any of my colleagues for disagreeing with me. That's what public debate is all about. But I struggle to find enough reasons or a reason large enough to say that we need to refer this to the Supreme Court, especially when we have advice otherwise. I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Brashear.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, about 1, 8. Brashear waives his opportunity. Senator Johnson, followed by Senator Friend.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback, fellow members, last night and yesterday were some of the most difficult in this session,