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FLOOR DEBATE

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and perhaps in several sessions. Personally, I am honored to be a member of a group that has been chosen to solve these difficult problems, particularly between adversaries like yesterday and last night that apparently were incapable of negotiation and compromise. Isn't it ironic that the principals that could not negotiate about education, when they claim to be educated individuals themselves, and then turn around and tell us that education is the basis of a civilized society? Today gets no easier. This is an historic day. These are serious charges against an elected official. I see us as a group of prosecuting attorneys meeting to decide if the charges have enough validity to submit the case to a jury, which in this case is unusual because the jury is the Nebraska Supreme Court. Today is not an impeachment trial. It is to determine if there are grounds that are valid enough to ask for that trial. The questions that we as a group need to ask ourselves, we laymen, is, did he do it? Did he mean to do it? Did he benefit by doing it? Did he ever avail of himself to meet with the representatives of the Legislature to present his side of the story? Did he then state that there was no such opportunity ever presented to him to give that side? Does he have the confidence of the people that he represents? Yes, a poll, a valid poll, isn't evidence, but when you use it for an excuse not to resign when you have less than 20 percent of the support of the people, it certainly is significant. The critical point, however, is this. What would the punishment be for a student who deliberately falsifies or cheats on a test, or a faculty member that plagiarizes? Can he govern and enforce the rules on these individuals when he does not obey them himself? You know the answers as well as I do to these questions. I escorted Mr. Hergert right up there to take his oath. He did it in front of all of us. Why are we arguing about a time line when these incidents occurred? They occurred right up there in front of all of us. One last thing. I want to applaud Senator Smith for saying that he...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...was going to vote up or down. Unless you have a reason to recuse yourself from voting today, vote red or green, or I'll think it says something about you as well as