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FLOOR DEBATE

April 12, 2006 LR 449

doing this? If we know full well that he will not be impeached in the Supreme Court, it makes no sense to me that we go forward with the impeachment. Mr. Mock, in the conclusion in the Mock report, I think is really...it summarizes it. It again talks about how the well-established test the court uses, our court uses, it's that prong test that I showed you, I believe it's on page 25. Senator Chambers has indicated, he talked about it but he forgot the word "and." And the important part is, must relate to office. And I got to tell you that I think that...and this is kind of addressed to Senator Schimek. I'm a minority member of this Legislature, party-wise. You know, if I, for some reason, as a minority party member, offend somebody in this body, if we go forward with an impeachment that doesn't relate to the office, the next thing you know, we'll be impeaching people because they're a minority party member or some other reason. This is no different than if an individual had a DUI. We could impeach him then, him or her. If they hadn't paid their taxes, their child support. Look, we are...

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...we are ignoring the very basic prong from the test on whether or not to impeach someone. You cannot impeach somebody unless it relates to the office. The Minnesota court said it well. We must separate the character of the man from the character of the office. This is not an impeachable offense. I would strongly urge you to vote no on this resolution.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Bourne. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Brashear, your light is on next.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Connealy, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on LR 449? All in favor vote aye; opposed,