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FLOOR DEBATE

March 12, 2002 LB 460, 1139

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We're debating advancement of the bill. Senator Beutler, recognized to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I spoke at length this morning on a bill and I don't think it did a lot of good, so I think maybe I'll just say nothing at all on this one. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 460. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 460.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 460 advances. It is close to four o'clock. At this point in time, we will switch to our committee priority bill debate for the day. Pursuant to the announcement that we had earlier this afternoon, we're now going to proceed to LB 1139 to be followed by LB 1003. Mr. Clerk, LB 1139.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1139, introduced by Senator Landis. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 16, referred to the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments. (AM2460, Legislative Journal page 430.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Speaker Kristensen, members of the Legislature, this is one of the two committee priority bills from the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee. It actually contains two measures in it; one, the original bill, and then one, a committee amendment. I'll explain both. The underlying bill, LB 1139, has to do with a MEWA. A MEWA is a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement. Now, a MEWA is basically an industry buying cartel for the purpose of buying health insurance for the emp...for the employees of multiple employers in the same industry. Doug Cunningham is here, right in front of us, for example, if there were grocers around the state, they had an association, they, maybe, didn't want to do an individual