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FLOOR DEBATE

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and scabs had been preserved on it. And they brought that thing to me. And I said, (laugh) if you guys think this is what a silk purse is, you need to go someplace besides the Legislature. But at least that was a demonstration that you could not make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. This bill has less merit than a sow's ear. A sow's ear is not going to hurt anybody; this bill would. So I am making a proposal here. And those people who are against this bill...I hope they're not going to all run off. Oh, but they're probably going to get something to eat. Oh, I was going to say, if Senator Tyson was gone, I was just going to ask unanimous consent to bracket the bill. But since he's here, (laugh) I won't do that. This bill has unintended consequences, and Senator Tyson is unaware of that, but he may be if he listened to me the last time I spoke. There is a specific provision in the bill that if a person obtains a permit under the terms of this bill, he or she is not covered by the existing statute that provides a defense if a person is arrested for carrying a concealed weapon. Right now, you can carry a weapon, a pistol, if it's out in the open. If you conceal it, and an officer is aware of it, an arrest can be made, but an arrest does not have to be made. But if it is, when you are prosecuted, if you are, a defense against that charge would be provided if you show a reason for having been in possession of a concealed weapon. That means that without any kind of a license, you can carry a concealed weapon now, and if you can show a justifiable reason for it, you will not be punished as a criminal for being in possession of a concealed weapon. What Senator Tyson's bill, LB 265, would do is say that anybody who obtains a permit to carry a concealed weapon is not covered under the section of statute I was just discussing. That means that a permit holder has more restrictions on him or her than a non-permit holder, such as myself. If a permit holder is found to be in violation of any of a number of provisions in LB 265, he or she is guilty of a crime. If I am in possession of a concealed weapon, under the same circumstances, I can show a reason for carrying that pistol and I am exonerated. So being a permit holder takes away an entire area of protection that exists in the law. One of the things that may not be done under this bill without violating that permit is to have any detectable amount of alcohol, illegal drugs, or legal drugs beyond the recommended dosage that would be considered