

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return LB 154 to committee.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is a substantially different bill from the one that was introduced under the number 154 and it is substantially different from the bill that was discussed on General File. Such being the case and there not having been a chance for a public hearing which we are very interested and concerned about here, it ought to go to a committee. There is no greater time than the present when the public should be allowed to express its view on legislation that favors a special gambling interest. The public may not be willing to allow the till to be plundered in this fashion and maybe the public would agree to allow the till to be plundered in this fashion. But in either case we don't really know what the public's point of view is on this issue. The only way to really find out if there is even any public interest is to schedule a hearing. Before a hearing can be scheduled on this bill, the bill must reside in a committee with the authority to schedule hearings. There are certain committees of the Legislature which are not empowered to conduct public hearings. That is why I make the distinction. This, in my opinion, is a bad bill. I think and feel that I am speaking in the best interest of the public welfare by opposing the bill. But allowing for the possibility that I could be mistaken, I am willing to put my point of view to the acid test. That test would occur most appropriately in the context of a public hearing. Senator DeCamp, life is hard by the yard but it is a cinch by the inch so I must proceed a step of it at a time. If I were going to sprint, I would move very rapidly because there is not much distance to cover and other people are moving as fast as they can. But when you are running a marathon, you have to pace yourself to make sure that your energy does not run out before the distance that you must cover. So you must bear with me if I speak as though I am a man of stammering lips and halting tongue. That is a biblical illusion, Senator DeCamp. This system of legislating serves different interests at different times. It has been used to serve Ak-Sar-Ben's interest and there was not a great amount of outrage, and Ak-Sar-Ben is an outsider. Although not in good standing, I am a member of