

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, not only has Senator Beutler's change that he's gone through in the past days affected positions he has taken, it has affected his usually circumspect ability to properly read and construe a law. He wants to say that he doesn't think this law will be interpreted to apply to something written in the privacy of your home. Senator Beutler knows, and he has argued on other occasions, that it is not the way somebody would interpret it. You start out with what the law says. The law says that it is a crime if you write, print, post, publish, circulate, period. It doesn't say if you write it and distribute it, and Senator Beutler knows that, except that he did not read the words of the amendment that he is trying to have reinstated. Senator Beutler is guilty of the worst offense a lawyer can commit, and that is in not reading the law which he is discussing. I challenge Senator Beutler to show me, in this bill on the floor, while I'm standing here and can hear him, and let him say it in the record and not by circulating a letter later, challenge me now and show me wrong, I challenge him to show me in that bill where the law requires that the writing be shown to anybody. He cannot do it and he will not do it, and that is why he wants to say I interpret it a certain way and he interprets it a different way, and that the commission has never interpreted it the way that I'm talking. I'm not talking about interpretation. I'm talking about reading the words on the face of the law. He cannot do that. Senator Beutler is a much better lawyer than he's showing himself to be this morning. I am disappointed in the kind of arguments Senator Beutler has given this morning. I have a much higher regard for him than would be justified if the way he is talking this morning was the way he always talked. Senator Beutler reads bills with a microscope. A man named Alexander Pope used to write poems. They said he wrote the most polished couplets of anybody. In one of them, "Essay on Man," there was a couplet, "Why does man not have a microscopic eye, For the simple reason that a man is not a fly." Senator Beutler reads legislation with a microscopic eye and a lot of times he is on the money. Sometimes he errs, as all human beings will do. But usually he will be very thorough and at least what he says the law says is correct. The disagreement will arise when we talk about the interpretation. But, as on another