

followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, when a person is bitten by a venomous beast and does not die immediately, the first thing to do to try to have a chance at life is to drain off as much of the venom as possible. I feel that last vote and the way the Governor has handled this is like the bite of a venomous beast. I am supposed to be the heartless villain. I'm supposed to be the legislative terrorist. I'm supposed to be the hostage taker, and I can accept all of it. It makes me no difference. But when those who want to engage in that kind of characterization do a far worse thing, then I think they mark and label themselves. For the Governor to have done what he did is inexcusable and unconscionable. For us to have bowed to it and bought into it is abject cowardice. I was going to put a motion up there to extend the session for one day to deal with veto overrides, and we could assume our responsibility. Senator Moore said we abdicated responsibility by the decisions we took earlier. No, we abdicate our responsibility if we do not maintain those decisions that were properly made. The bitterness that I feel about that last vote cannot be expressed with words, so I won't attempt to do that completely, but I will say that it casts the Governor in an entirely different light than the one I had seen him in. I, along with others, was invited to a bill signing ceremony, as I mentioned to you. I view that something like I view eating with people. Are you the kind of person who, if you were angry with me, I could place a knife in your hand, show you my back, and you not stab me in the back? If that's the kind of person you are, I will consider eating with you, breaking bread with you. But after the vicious, the vicious play that the Governor made, how could I or any other member of this Legislature go to some ceremony immediately after that and grin like a bunch of brainless Cheshire cats because it is considered such an honor to sit with this man, who played off the welfare of the developmentally disabled against these others. And you are going to attend the ceremony which is supposed to be bottomed on respect? These are the kind of things that cause me to have so much contempt for this Legislature on occasion, and legislators on occasion. We hear so much talk when there are no consequences to be borne. Then it is all thrown out the window if you get to run over to the Governor's Office and sit there like a grinning monkey or baboon, while he signs a piece of paper, and you sit there showing your teeth so a photograph can be taken and you are so honored and happy after having just