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Pull my finger ...

That Sen. **Linda Gray** is a quick learner. No fool is she.

During the filibuster over the marriage amendment on the last day of the legislative session, she got a summons to chat with Gov. **Janet Napolitano**. The Guv wanted to talk about Gray's bill to ban late-term abortion. That's a bill that the governor has vetoed in the past and that, Gray is confident, was headed for another rendezvous with the veto stamp.



Gray smelled a rat. She declined the request, refusing to leave the Senate floor. If she did, she said, the Democrats trying to hold off a vote on the amendment to ban gay marriage would have called for a vote and defeated the measure. Gray's vote was needed to ensure its passage, and the Glendale senator said she was going nowhere.

"I did not fall for it," she said. "I was not going to leave that floor. We'd worked so hard to get everyone there."

The trick had worked earlier this year, when Rep. **Jack Brown**, a Democrat from St. John, was summoned to the Ninth Floor to discuss budget matters. While he was gone, the marriage amendment came up for a vote in the House and failed. Brown would have been a "yes" vote if present.

Gray said she wasn't sure why the governor thought there'd be anything to discuss about the late-term abortion bill, since a veto was imminent. Maybe, she surmised, the Guv's staff thinks she's stupid.

"Maybe the blond hair," she said, referring to her flowing locks.

Later that night, the abortion bill was vetoed as anticipated.

— Mary Jo Pitzl

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