

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 1, 1999 LB 243

pinpoint some of the questions that certainly need to be answered, but the idea over all as to what are we wanting to do in terms of limiting or not limiting the opportunities out there for people who are National Guard members and wish to continue their postsecondary education. Senator Schimek raised some good questions, Senator Wehrbein raised some good questions and, as I said, we need some time to come to answers of that. And what I would like to do then is pull the amendment with the understanding that I will visit with the senators that I've talked to, get the information back to them, and bring up the issue of the regional versus the national accrediting on Select File.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is withdrawn. We will go back to a discussion on the advancement of LB 243. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I continue to hear the word "entice" with reference to trying to get people to join the National Guard. Under other circumstances, we will hear discussion about the patriotism, the love of state, self-sacrifice, all of these things as the motivators for being in the guard. But as always happens, where the rubber hits the road, we face the reality of the fact that people join the National Guard for the same reason that people do most things, and that's based on what's in it for me. There's nothing wrong with that. I just say there should be more honesty and forthrightness so that these issues don't become clouded, befogged and wrapped up in all kind of irrelevancies, and that's what we're dealing with when we talk about all that dedication and other stuff. That has nothing to do with it whatsoever, or the people in the guard would be happy to serve for nothing, just because they love their state and their country. But we know that's not the case. If you really want to lure people into the National Guard, raise the pay. Put the carrot out there and be honest and forthright in what you're trying to do. You're trying to hire people and keep them on standby so if you have a situation which cannot be handled by local law enforcement of volunteers, then you've got these people that you can call out and set them to work. Pay them more money. But you don't want to do that 'cause that sounds like it's too mercenary, but it almost might cost too much