

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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February 8, 1999 LB 211

Journal.) 21 ayes, 22 nays on the amendment.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** The Beutler amendment fails. Discussion on LB 211? Chair recognizes Senator Chambers. The call is raised. Senator Chambers.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, "Senator David Landis-Chambers" has wrought mischief this morning. Senator Landis, you did a masterful job. (Laugh.) He scared you all. He turned a pride of lions into a flock of sheep. You all took a vote and said we vote to name this fruit a lemon. Senator Beutler said, this fruit that we have voted to label a lemon is a citrus fruit, it grows on a tree, it is sour. So Senator Landis, who sells orange juice, stood up and said, oh, wait a minute, the first vote only used one word--lemon; the second vote used three words or more, three new concepts--grows on a tree (without telling you what's bad about that), citrus (without telling you what's bad about that), sour (without telling you what's bad about that). Because every one of those three terms is a proper description of a property of the lemon, which you voted to accept and to label. The Legislature is truly, on occasion, an amazing place, I didn't say amazing grace, an amazing place, but to me it is never surprising. I am accustomed to the Legislature taking a step forward and two steps back; of the Legislature starting out with a resolve of steel, then watch it melt into Jell-O. It's like that ghost in "A Christmas Carol". It melted, dwindled and collapsed into a bedpost. That's what the Legislature will often do based on fear and timidity. We ought to think about what it is that we do and not become fearful when we do it properly. Some people voted against Senator Beutler's amendment because they're opposed to the idea of banning smoking in these buildings. A majority voted for Senator Tyson's amendment. Now what we need to do is look at the names of that majority, then see which ones of them got afraid when an appropriate definition was put into the bill. Fortunately, there is more than one stage of debate on a bill. This that we're doing is instructive. What is going to have to be done with this bill is to determine precisely what it is the Legislature wants to do. I believe laws should be clear. A person should be able to go to the statute, read what is written there and understand from the words written on the page, those words that just recline on the page, and know what