

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

March 20, 2002 LB 1309, 1310

confront and deal with one way or the other. And since I am not going to achieve the purposes that I had in mind when I started this long painful pilgrimage on LB 1310, I'm going to throw in the towel. But on LB 1309 there are some issues that I intend to grapple with, and when we get to that Revenue bill there are issues that I believe all of us will grapple with. What is troubling to me is that unless I will be the one to be the garbageman and raise these issues that we need to discuss, even if we don't change them, they would not be discussed. This bill would have gone across the floor and be gone. What I would suggest, since my colleagues lack the belly to fight or lack the fire in the belly needed to fight, everybody stand up and pay what Patrick Henry described as his devoir to virtue, his homage, his acknowledgment. Everybody stand up, moan and groan about we're having bad times and I hate to do this and I'm reluctant, but I'm going to do it anyway. Then just move the bill on across the floor. And if everybody would promise to do that, then I won't say anything on the bill. But that's not going to happen because there are pet projects, pet agencies, pet notions that people will stake out territory around and want to try to persuade the body in the way that I've tried to persuade the body. I have been unsuccessful. A lot of you are going to be unsuccessful. But a point will be reached when we're going to have to get enough votes to do something. Even if the vote is to do nothing, a vote is going to have to be taken that will resolve this issue one way or the other. All of the things that I believe I ought to deal with, I'm going to put forth that effort, and the record will disclose what steps I took and why I took them. I believe I'll have the opportunity, when we get to LB 1309, to talk about that idiotic man with the funny little beanie on his head, called Archbishop Elden Curtiss in Omaha. See, you all think he's a great guy, but you don't realize that he was a Bishop in Montana for 17 years and he was handling a case of a priest accused of sexual child abuse, and he took two incriminating letters out of the priest's file so that they could not be found. That's what Bishop Elden Curtiss did, and now he wants to pretend that he's one of these straight arrows who is looking out for the welfare of children and parishioners. The man is, in addition to other things, a fabricator. He utters falsehoods. And there are a lot of things I'm going to discuss on LB 1309 so you all just get