

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

March 18, 2004      LB 1089

difference, no difference whatsoever. But if I am provoked, within the rules, I simply say, I want a division of the question on the committee amendment to the budget. You all can never say that I snuck up behind you and stuck you in the back or I set an ambush. I ought to do that. Surprise is one of the major tactics that military strategists use to get the upper hand on their opponent. But I announce in advance where I'm going and why. Some of you all would be better served if others were as forthright and direct as I am. And if you could know that in the same way when I give my word, you can count on it, rather than have me give you my word, looking you dead in the eye; then when you really need me, I'm not there. Now you all know what I'm talking about, but that doesn't apply to me. But since I said if you do not...I'm going to use Senator Bourne's language, if you don't give me my way on this fair amendment, then I'm going to move...not move, I don't have to make it as a motion. I'm going to ask for a division of the question. Then everything can go out the window. We don't have to worry about that motion to move everything across the board in one vote. People may not want to do that anyway. But when we get bogged down in the kind of discussion we're having today, it won't be my doing. Brothers and sisters, let me tell you all how I operate. Even when I'm not participating in the discussion, I'm paying attention to what is happening. There are not a lot of amendments to this bill. The debate has been on everything except the amendment that I've offered, and that's the way appropriations bills are always discussed. There are appropriations bills which are farther down on the agenda, which will be discussed in the context of the one that is actually before us. But the discussion is like water poured on a surface. It spreads in all direction, it's undifferentiated, it is not focused, it is not coherent, but this is the way budget bill discussions always go. If that is the way the body wants to proceed, I have no objection to it. The time is burned off the clock, but not by me. That is the course the body chose to follow. I have made an offer. I made it in good faith. It would save time, it would give you a chance to talk about other matters, and it would also focus everybody's attention on these budget bills because the discussion would have to go to changes that you might think should be made. General File is a throwaway time on the budget bill. Amendments are not offered.