

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

February 1, 1999 LB 243

people were glad to see that National Guard. The other thing, a year ago, a little more than a year ago here in Lincoln, I was really glad to see the National Guard in October of '97 out in our street and other streets across the town helping traffic and keeping order. There are times in a local disaster that things can get out of hand with people panicking. Look at the earthquake in Colombia. They panic because they don't have enough food, or they can't get out of the house, and the National Guard, for me, especially in the state, and I know they are back up in what their mission is in relationship to the national troops, to the United States Army troops, but they are here in our state. And, yes, Senator Landis, that is true, that when the economy goes down, it might be that some of the young people would have more of an incentive to go to the National Guard, and starting in high school, and I happen to be of that generation when I had friends, yes, in high school who did go to the National Guard because it was a little extra money every month to help them and their families. And one of them, Jim Brown, ended up in Corregidor on the death march. He never was found. So there is a young, gentle kid who went to the Philippines from the National Guard to protect all of us. And whether you agree with that war or any other war, nobody likes wars, those kids did go out and give their lives for all of us. But the other side from that emotional side of it, I do think that we...we forget what the National Guard and/or all law enforcement, too, we forget what they do sometimes and maybe don't think about why we need them until something happens, until there is a disaster. And so for that reason, keep that in mind as we vote on this bill today. It will get in line at the end, as Senator Beutler has pointed out, it will get in line on money, and if some compromise is worked out, fine, but I hope...I hope it works. I hope it is an incentive for our young people, men and women both, to join the National Guard and to be there when we need them. So thank you very much. I hope you'll vote for the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend the bill, Mr. President. (See FA6 on page 405 of the Legislative Journal.)