

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

March 9, 1999

LB 126

does that make? None. But when you're looking for new persons and classes to criminalize, young people are the only group left. They cannot vote. They are not organized. They can easily be taken advantage of, and most easily and readily taken advantage of by those whom they have been led to trust. Young people are taught to respect the government, to respect lawmakers, to respect the laws that are enacted, but in the process of giving this propaganda, young people are not told simultaneously that these lawmakers and these laws are designed to criminalize them and hang millstones about their necks that can sink them into the present, then attach to them what would amount to the clinking chains, cashboxes and ledgers that were hung on Marley of the Scrooge and Marley combine, and Marley went clanking through eternity with those things chained to him. So in the process of creating these new crimes that young people will be charged with and convicted of, records are going to attach to them. You want to take a driver's license for offenses that have nothing to do with the abuse of a driver's license, and if the license is taken, then to drive without a license subjects a person to six months imprisonment. And that's what you all want to do. You want to put as heavy a burden on these children as you can. You want to punish, punish, punish. You want to heap one punishment atop another punishment after creating new offense after new offense. These are your children. They are our children, but because there are adults and there are churches which provide alcoholic liquor to children, there is a specific exemption in the statutes to allow the giving of alcohol to children and they're consuming it in the home where we have these family values that are driving legislatures, such as this one, to criminalize young people and punish, punish, punish. But as soon as one of us runs afoul of the law, the first thing we want to do is to get a lawyer and see if he can strike a bargain for us so we will not be punished. And if we have the clout or the money, we can get out from under it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Nobody other than myself would demand that we bring consistency to these enactments by attaching to every violation of every law the words that in addition to any other punishment, these violators shall lose their driver's license.