

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

March 10, 1999 LR 11

I am not going to take the Unicameral's time to go over in detail the arguments that I made at an earlier time. I am against the LR 11CA for the reasons stated. A good many of you may have read the various editorials that have appeared in newspapers. I want to apologize for all those editorial writers as the only reason they wrote is because they love the English language and, with that, I would ask that you vote against the whole ball of wax here. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Further discussion on Amendment 125? Senator Kristensen, you're recognized to close.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, members, what this amendment does is change the...it doesn't change the intent and so if you were thinking this amendment's going to bring you on board, it's not. This amendment replaces the words "the use of the masculine gender in this constitution shall be construed to include the feminine gender." That is removed and replaced with "the language in this constitution shall be construed to be general neutral", and it still keeps the action of the Secretary of State to reprint the constitution to reflect that, and the intent certainly would be to go through and, wherever possible, as we debated on the previous round, to try to make the constitution not make specific references to "he" or "she" and pronouns; that the constitution should be a gender-blind document. I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. The question before us is the adoption of the Kristensen amendment to LR 11CA. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Kristensen's amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Smith.