

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

April 19, 1999 LB 637

sure that I'd fight it out here on the floor. I'm not so sure that that's what I'm going to do. If there are people who don't like this bill, let them argue against it. Abraham Lincoln suggested that the best way to get rid of a bad law is to put it in place and let it be enforced. Then the public makes the demand that a change occur. The only way to determine whether or not this is a bad system is to let it take effect. Now, if there are others who believe that it ought not take effect, they're going to have to get up and boogie today. I'm not going to carry the load. All that will happen is women entitled to child support payments won't get them on time. They'll run into state bureaucracy if they make a call to whatever that centralized number is, and all the women who have problems are going to be calling that number. Then they're going to get this electronic menu, as they call it, and then listen to bathroom music while waiting between times for another mechanical voice to tell them go someplace else. Then finally, after you've listened to about ten of them--all of our lines are busy; every call is important to us; hold on and we'll get to you the next time we have somebody who can talk to you. Then the bathroom music comes back on and she's chewing her fingernails and at her wit's end, because even with the system that had been replaced she could go to a courthouse, she could talk to a human being, and she could get some kind of resolution of her problem. You all don't like that. You all like to make it hard for these women. You all elevate form over substance. You all want some people to be able to play with computers. Some of you all want Lockheed to get this contract. Some of you all have an agenda which will help certain big businesses so when you run for office they will help you. But to me, brothers and sisters, these women...and most of those who are receiving child support are women, we know that. Some men might be in that situation. We're talking again primarily about women and, in the same way that I've been critical of the Governor's appointments and using those appointments as an opportunity to discuss the mistreatment of women, I see here another example of experimentation on women. That's where the experiments will occur--the poor, the weak, the defenseless, and women. Sometimes women fall into all of these categories. Sometimes women make up the bulk of any one of these categories, so that's why this is easy to do. I started to use an obscenity to suggest what this is saying ought to be done to women, but I'm not pushed over the edge yet, but