

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

April 20, 1999 LB 637

caught the attention of most of the senators and there is serious discussion going on trying to figure what can be done. If all politics could be removed from the...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...question, there would be a greater likelihood of getting something done. But since we're in a political setting, politics will always be a part of it. I had wished...I had hoped that Senator Bohlke's motion that she had offered this morning would be taken to a vote, but it was not, and now there's a difficulty in trying to get that before the body again. If she can talk to some of these other people who have amendments and get whoever has the next one to agree to a substitution, I would pull my bracket motion until we discuss that, because I can offer it at any point. And if there's a chance that something can be done...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Senator Vrtiska, further discussion on the bracket motion.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor Maurstad. I...I have to agree with Senator Baker and I guess all...most of the speakers that have been addressing this ahead of me and that is this is a very confused (inaudible). Probably as much confusion on this bill as any bill that's come up before me since I've been in this Legislature. I think what we're demonstrating here is that the federal government has said one size fits all. There's obviously states in this United States who have not done a good job on this issue and so the federal government has decided to put them on notice that they're either going to do better or they've got problems. This state has not had those problems, as been demonstrated by several of the speakers before me that we have not seen the problem, and yet here we're being forced to do something that we don't think is in the best interests of either the people or the state. I wanted to make a comment to Senator Chambers because he and I don't have a lot of things in common because he's such an eloquent speaker and I'm not, but one thing we do have in common, Senator Chambers, and that's our singing ability. Neither one of us can sing anything. (Laugh) And I didn't want to embarrass you to have to demonstrate to the world how bad a