

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

April 21, 1999 LB 76

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Hartnett, on the Bruning amendment.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, and members of the body, I think...struck by the words of Dwite Pedersen when he talks about are we fair and consistent with our punishment, and I think that's what Senator Brashear is trying to point out to us. Have we be...have we been fair and consistent? And I...made me think back to my former seatmate that used to sit before Senator Stuhr was Senator Frank Korshoj, and a few years ago we were upset, before Senator Wehrbein was Chairman of Appropriations Committee, we were...Frank and I were sitting here, what Appropriations, what they were going to spend on the prisons, and so we introduced a lot of amendments so that we'd make the Appropriations explain what they were doing with there...and which...and they did a good job of explaining the amendments to us. And we got a call from Senator Korshoj's ex-bookie who was in the prison, who was in prison for, he called us and said come out and see what the conditions are in the prison, and he was, getting back to the fair and consistent, he was in, Senator Connealy represents the district right now, but he was in prison for double murder. And he was not going to face the death penalty and he got angry one day with a farmer or something in his district and went out and blasted, according to Frank Korsho...or Senator Korshoj, blasted the husband; the wife came out and, you know, two for one, we'll shoot again. And I think that's the point I think, have we been, in this state, fair and consistent? I think that's...I guess I was...thought of this as Senator Pedersen brought that up, and I think that's maybe is what, you know, what the Judiciary Committee is saying. Maybe we need to look at what we have done over these past years, and I will probably not support Senator Bruning's amendment. And I give the rest of my time to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, two and a half minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, very much, Senator Hartnett, and if anybody else is kind enough to give me time, I would appreciate it. There is about enough time for me to read a quote from Justice William O. Douglas, who was one of the five judges in the Furman v. Georgia case that Senator Brashear