

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

April 21, 1999 LB 76

language that describes or gives guidance for the study that is to be undertaken. I still say again that when I and the Pope see eye-to-eye, that is a remarkable occurrence. I don't think it's enough to make the sun go into total eclipse, but I think there is some shaking going on somewhere in this universe as a result of this. And if Senator Tyson is going to argue it to some extent from the moral position, even though I'm not a Catholic, I'm aware of the fact that a lot of people in the world deem the Pope to be the moral leader of the world, if you're going to designate one person. He would probably out-poll Billy Graham. Although, in a poll during the time that Clinton was in trouble, Clinton out-pollled both the Pope and Billy Graham. I don't understand that exactly, but that's the way it was. On this issue I doubt that the Pope just woke up one morning and had some bacon and eggs that were cooked especially to his liking, and it put him in such a good mood that he said, I think we ought to try to get the death penalty abolished all over the world. See, Senator Tyson and others, what I'm aware of is that a decade ago the Pope was talking about having everybody on death row pardoned. This is the first time he has taken as strong and unequivocal a position, as wide-reaching as he took just a few months ago. But he has been speaking out against the death penalty. He's been speaking in favor of clemency. And for that I applaud him, because there are so many...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...other ministers of other religions who insist that God and Christ mandate that the state kills people, that the only reason Jesus died was to create a state system that would have the power to kill people, which makes no sense to me. So, I remain in the same boat as the Pope, Dickens, St. Augustine, Montesquieu, Becceria and other very thoughtful people; and Senator Tyson I will leave to his own devices. But I understand, if there's a lot of air in a container or a vessel, it is buoyant and will float, so I doubt that Senator Tyson will drown, even though he's not in the boat.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Thompson.