

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

May 5, 1999

LB 44

minutes and ten seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Brashear and Mr. President. And to further elaborate on what Senator Bohlke stated, a lot of times we don't become aware of how certain mechanics in the constitution and the laws will work until we have an issue such as this. I'm glad she mentioned the counties where some of these seizures are occurring, because the money that results is to go to the common schools in the county where that money originated. So, if they are catching these people in these rural counties, and if a proper conviction is had and all the requirements of law are complied with, whatever results by way of forfeiture, fine or penalty goes to the schools of the county where the crime was committed, where the money originated. I am...my mind is boggled that Senator Bromm or anybody else can justify law enforcement in violating the law. That's what the drug dealers and law enforcement have in common in this instance--they both are violating the law. Why punish the drug dealer? He didn't take an oath to uphold the law in constitution. He doesn't have all those powers of a sworn officer. Money drives the drug dealer to violate the law by selling dope. Money drives law enforcement to violate the constitution and laws to create that slush fund. They are the ones who are picking people up on the streets right now for violating the law. They themselves are law violators, and brazenly admit it, and go beyond that and want to justify it. Then they tell us who enacted these laws, that we should disregard the laws, too, because law enforcement is the violator in this instance.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What the U.S. Supreme Court did, because there was so much in the way of improper police conduct, was to say that the fruits of illegal searches and seizures or those things done in violation of the constitution would prevent law enforcement from benefitting from their own unlawful conduct, so they could not use any evidence seized in violation of the law. Senator Bromm says we should let them continue to spend money that they hold in violation of the law and that they spend in violation of the law. Senator Dierks and others, with my help, were trying to stop the packers from doing things that were not