

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

May 6, 1999

being in a position not to be excluded will always surmise that the excluded people really don't have any interest, they don't care about this, they don't want to be here, or they would be here. But when you're accustomed to having the door slammed in your face, there are some areas where you say, it's just not worth the aggravation, it's not worth the trouble. So, for the reasons that I voted against these types of nominations in the past, I'm going to vote against them today. I want to also indicate that I was mightily attempted...mightily tempted to get up and running after I heard Senator Jensen's sermon, because I thought he was taking the place of the chaplain, and I was going to tell him that the next time he does that, don't take so long. You don't make a sermon immortal by making it everlasting. But then I found out he was not preaching, that he was merely educating us about one of the activities in which you all ought to participate. And I would advocate everybody praying, too. That's a good thing to do, because Jesus said, when you pray, you ought to go in the closet. And more people need to spend some time in the closet. Then when they come out, they might be better people and more able to adjust to the society at large as some others who are forced into a closet and then venture out of the closet, but they run into all types of hostility. So when I hear people say, let us use prayer to solve the problem in Kosovo, and I see that prayer cannot solve the problem of homelessness, prayer cannot solve the problem of discrimination, prayer cannot solve any of the problems that are related to exclusions that have their basis in gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, then we know that prayer is a cop-out. We in the Legislature don't have to pray, we have the power to answer prayers, but we don't. So I'm just a bit less confident that, if everybody prays, anything is going to be better. You'll notice that the Bible also said, watch and pray, watch and pray. Because, if you close your eyes and pray, some of those who are praying with you may decide to prey on you, p-r-e-y. And they said that during the development and growth of Massachusetts Bay Colony, which was supposed to be a highly religious colony, you would be shocked at the three greatest problems that they had in that colony. So prayer is good for those who find it good. But until I see some effects of it,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.