

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

May 12, 1999

LB 880

on ignorance rather than malice, but sometimes the negligence can be so egregious that if it were in a court, it could be deemed to rise to the level of malice. There is such a total disregard for and ignoring of the truth and the facts. When the World-Herald will put articles in the news columns such as this, it indicates that they are launching, deliberately and knowingly, a propaganda scheme based on misinformation. So that is the area of my frustration this morning. But I think it ties into a lot. Suppose there are people who read the editorial that Speaker Kristensen spoke of and then will read this article in the World-Herald. They say, well, that proves they're big spenders. The state is giving Omaha \$75 million to build a convention center. That's going in Omaha. Why should everybody in the state ante up \$75 million? I'll tell you why. Because the big spenders in Lincoln don't care about the rest of the state. The Legislature is trying to cheese up to Omaha, so they're going to give them \$75 million. I know that there are a lot of members on the floor who are not concerned about the institutional image of the Legislature. I don't like that convention center. I don't like the bill. And it goes, again, to the misleading of the public. So I'll leave that motion up there in case anybody wants to make a comment. But obviously, I intend ultimately to withdraw it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Discussion on the motion to bracket LB 880E? Senator Wickersham, followed by Coordsen and Lynch.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. Obviously, I don't think LB 880E ought to be bracketed. But I do want to pick up a little bit on what Senator Kristensen, Speaker Kristensen, had to say. The editorial that he was discussing was obviously wrongheaded and inaccurate in many respects. I think as a matter of course we should expect more accuracy, more understanding, more insight, if not just, frankly, more truthfulness out of a major institution imbued with something that we would characterize as the public trust. Now, I know that newspapers...and this article was no different...publish their opinions anonymously. We don't know who wrote that editorial. I think that there is a "disjoinder" between the kind of responsibility that you and I bear as members of this Legislature, the accountability that we have for our actions,