

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

January 10, 2000

say the real goal is. That doesn't diminish the number of bills the Judiciary Committee gets, that pitiful, abused, misunderstood committee. I think the rest of us, well, the rest of you-all, I'm a member of the committee, ought to be given crying towels the first day of the session so that the first five minutes we can spend shedding sympathetic tears for the members of the Judiciary Committee who have such a hard time doing their job. But don't shed tears for me, because I'm not the one whining and saying it's too heavy for me. In fact, I haven't come down here and whined to you-all about anything. I haven't come down here and begged you for anything. That's not the way I operate. The Legislature should not be a begging outfit. Every agency of government kicks the Legislature around and the two other branches do too, the courts and the executive. The Governor, in talking about how we're going to conduct business over here, said he doesn't mind the inconvenience of a filibuster. What does he mean, he doesn't mind the inconvenience? He's not in here. What he means is his flunkies that he's designated, and you-all know who you are, I don't, his flunkies don't mind being inconvenienced when he told them you will be inconvenienced because I, the Governor, want you inconvenienced; but when I'm over here taking care of executive business you're not going to be sitting down here at this table; you're not going to be here because I have no respect for you as a legislator; I order you around and you do it when I tell you to; when I say bark, you bark; when I say bite, you bite. And that's why he can say in full confidence in the newspaper, I don't mind the inconvenience of a filibuster. He says he speaks for all of you-all, and not one of you countered him. That's your Governor. Now, if this Legislature was like the legislatures in other states a Governor would not say that, would not be that presumptuous. You wouldn't have an Attorney General disrespecting you in the way that the Attorney General disrespects this Legislature. But everybody knows they can slap this Legislature and still get every thing out of them that they need. The angriest you get is at me, and I'm the one trying to get you to stand up into stars of manhood and womanhood and be the policy-making body that we are; to remind you that the hand that controls is the hand that controls the purse strings, and we control the purse strings. But you-all don't accept that. You let people kick you around and then tell you, give me this money, and then you give it to them. What I wish is that all