

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

January 28, 2000 LB 175

the votes of those people for whom they have such contempt and for whom they show such contempt the whole time they're in office. They feel that those people will never be aware of the betrayals and the contempt in which they are held. They're not going to pick up the statute books. They're not going to get copies of the transcriptions of our debate. They're not going to be aware of what we do here. The only thing that's going to make them aware that something is wrong is when these unjust laws come crashing down on them, and they're going to wonder, how did this happen? Why is this happening to me? Why do I have nobody that I can go to? Somebody did this, somebody knows about this. And if it happened to some big shot out in west Omaha, if it happened, it probably wouldn't, but if it happened by mistake, something would be done about it. I have no place to turn. I have nobody who will go my bond. Then you know what I see happen? Every morning, although I don't participate, somebody stands up there and prays. And most of them wind up invoking the name of Jesus, Jesus Christ, in Jesus Christ's name, or however they...they conjure, whatever the magical formula is, and then Jesus is evicted just like they want to evict these poor tenants, because now we get down to business and this is the business that Jesus doesn't know anything about. Why do I say Jesus doesn't know anything about this? Because he tells you to be compassionate toward people. If they are hungry and you have food, give them something to eat. That has no place in this Legislature. If they're thirsty and you have water, give them to drink. Oh, I got water, it's in a bottle and it's going to cost them dearly, so they don't drink. Give them a place to stay. What do you mean a handout? We ain't giving them "nothin". Well, Jesus said, I don't want to hear this talk of Jesus, that's for when we pray in the morning or somebody else prays. And invariably those guys and those gentlemen and the ladies who pray will say something about putting in you all's heart or your head what you're supposed to think and feel, to make you do the right thing and do what Jesus and God want you all to do, because he sent you all here. God didn't send me here, brothers and sisters, the voters of the 11th Legislative District sent me here. And that's why I cannot turn my back on the poor. I cannot turn away from the hungry, the thirsty, the impoverished and those who are homeless. But if I were a Christian I could, because my Christianity is comfortable in the presence of me faring sumptuously and