

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

February 1, 2000 LB 175

terrible thing to have to suffer. But he will survive in the same way that I shall. On the last vote I did not vote yes and then change my vote to not voting in order to be in a position to reconsider. I'm trying to be collegial this morning. But now my collegiality has been exhausted. I did it twice. I withdrew an amendment and I let a vote go and I did not move to reconsider. But now I'm back to my old self. Senator Hilgert suggested that maybe I was resting. Maybe I was. Sometimes, Senator Smith, if you're in a sailboat you have to strike sail and await a more favorable breeze. Whether that is what was done in this situation or not nobody will be able to determine with certitude. But one thing is sure. A bill of this kind is not going to have an easy passage through this Legislature as long as I am here. What ought to be considered, and I'll say it again and again and again, the way the law reads right now, a landlord can keep the property of a tenant and it is not required to be set off against what is owed. It is not deducted from what the landlord claims is owed. Whatever security deposit the tenant put down is going to be kept by the landlord. That goes without saying. And, in their greed, they wanted to double that amount from one month's rent to two months' rent, not because that was needed to repair or clean these apartments, but they decided to double this illicit source of income and that's what it amounts to. Consider how you can clean up if you have students moving into your apartments and when the term is over they're going back home. You know they're not going to stay here and battle with a landlord over a security deposit. So, if a student leases one of these places for 12 months, the landlord is going to get a baker's dozens...a baker's dozen months' rent. The landlord is going to get 13 months' rent because the security deposit is gone. And they want to double that. And they have meetings about how they're going to be sure and just go ahead and keep that deposit. Senator Quandahl know from...knows from his dealings in this area as a lawyer...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that security deposits are routinely kept. Senator Hilgert knows that and, if he's gotten complaints, he knows it with a vengeance. Senator Smith, if he didn't know it, he knows it now. Does it make any difference to anybody? Maybe so and maybe not, but with these votes I'm kind of feeling that