

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

February 9, 2000 LB 652

the mentality of a 14-year-old child. Then we take a 14-year-old child, who does not have the benefits of this experience, and treat that child as an adult. That's crazy. That's backward. And I want to be sure that whatever is done here is not going to encourage those unreasonable prosecutors who seek permission to prosecute children as adults, and those unreasonable judges who consent to it will not be encouraged by what we do here. There is such a thing known as baiting animals, b-a-i-t, not where you set something out to lure or entice that animal into a trap, but you get sticks, you get other items to torment and torture that animal. And when they like to pit animals, or make them fight each other, they would bait them first to get them in the proper frame of mind. When the hostility, the aggression, had reached the fever pitch, then they'd turn them loose in a pit, but often there was an inequality between the two animals. They might...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...take a dog and put it in a pit with a bear, not to see what we would call, as human beings, a fair fight. It's barbaric and should never happen, and it wouldn't happen in nature. But they have these two animals disparate in size and weight so they could see one literally rip the other one to pieces. They love the sight of blood. And they would blood animals, too. That meant you take a little bitty animal and let the big one kill it and rip it apart to get that desire for the blood, to smell the blood, take the flame and be willing to fight. Well, I think some of that happens in the minds of human beings when it comes to dealing with our children.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, your light is on next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I want to get some of these preliminary comments out of the way so that when we get to the bill I may refer to them again, but I won't have to do it to the extent that I'm doing it now. Cruelty is the watchword when it comes to dealing with our children. There are wars waged by politicians against children. They're vulnerable, they have no organization, they trust adults. They have that attitude that Job supposedly had after God was putting him through hell because he was having bets with the devil as to which one could