

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

February 11, 2000 LB 922

I couldn't believe that he said that. I reached down, picked up my briefcase and I said, let's go. I just, I literally could not believe that a group of people...that in a group of people somebody would ask that question." Yet he did not respond to the woman as to why he did nothing. I have my light on, and I'm not going to read more, but I have a comment or two.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Doctor of the day and visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, your light is next to speak to the bill before the body.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, whoever is appointed to this judgeship may or may not be a good person, may or may not have done wicked things, but certainly has not done anything wicked while serving as a judge, because he or she has not yet been appointed. As Senator Beutler suggested earlier, well not suggested, he declared that a judge is needed in the eleventh judicial district. I represent the eleventh legislative district, there can be a kind of affinity here, maybe a kind of symmetry, maybe symbolism. But this bill is going to get a free ride today. Something has to be done to deal with these rotten judges, and when I emphasize "these", I'm not saying every judge is rotten, I'm talking about those who have been documented to have done wrongful things. And the judiciary as a whole sits back and folds its hands, and lawyers will not speak up or do anything either. But in the instances where something is done and a case as egregious as that of Paul Empson's will come before the judiciary, as it did before the Nebraska Supreme Court. They let him off, they let him off with a six month suspension. So you know what I have to do? Tons of research, which I've done; read dozens of cases, which I've done; find time, which I haven't thus far, to write and file a complaint with the Bar Association to try to get this rapscallion's license lifted. Those who are lawyers now know that before you can be allowed to even take the bar exam, you have to be a person of what they call good moral character. If you pass the exam, before you can be admitted, you have to pass that same test again. If you're trying to be admitted to the bar here, because you have a license in another state, that same standard must be met. Well it seems to me that after you've been a judge the bar should not be lowered, it should be raised because you have been a part of