

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

March 2, 2000

LB 915

involving the domestic violence victim, there was no provision in statute where that person could receive benefits without any penalty whether it was charged against the employer's account or not. So that bill was substantially different from this one. What this one would say is that the employer would be responsible for whatever the amount is that Senator Vrtiska mentioned, fifty something hundred dollars. I think that was the amount, almost a half a year's salary for us. Did I think it was a good bill when it came before the committee? Yes. Did I think it was a good bill when I voted to advance it to the floor? Yes. At that time, was it my intention to support the bill with an aye vote should it come up for debate? Yes. So what has happened to bring about the change? There was a poem that I read a long time ago and part of it said, time and circumstance...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...do happen to all. With the passage of time and the change in circumstances, this bill does not look as alluring to me as it did then, and failure to pass this bill does not impact the employee. It impacts only the experience account of the employer, and if I've got that wrong, then I can be corrected, but my light is on to continue my discussion.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you may continue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the answer that I was offered at this point is not very helpful in this discussion. It's about a day late and a dollar short, but it would have been appropriate at an earlier point and may become appropriate as the discussions go on. When we sit on the Labor Committee, we look at numerous issues that deal with the relationship of an employee to an employer, the relationship between the employer and the state in terms of the requirements imposed on those employers. We deal with workers' comp issues and sometimes I think that that is a good system and sometimes I'm not sure. I don't think workers are ever in a position where they can deal in a fair situation with employers, because in this state an employer can fire you without reason. And some employers are not very smart because they make the mistake of providing a reason and it's the wrong reason. If they would