

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

March 15, 2000 LB 1407

we need a preacher up there because religion ought to have something to do in guiding our actions. Well, what kind of religion do you all have? I was hungry and you fed me not. I was thirsty; you gave me not to drink. I was in prison and you didn't visit me. That's what Jesus said he was going to tell them. They're going to say, Lord, when did we see you hungry and didn't feed you? When did we see you thirsty and give you a drink of water? When did we ever see you in prison, period? He said, you did it not for the least of one of these, my brethren and sisters, so you didn't do it for me. Now you all believe that. I'm not led by anything supernatural; just by an ordinary sense of what is decent and fair for people who cannot help themselves. Those of you who are Catholics hear a lot of discussion of so-called social justice. You hear all these bulls, all these encyclical saying that societies are created so that collectively things can be done for individuals who cannot help themselves. And some people want to wear their religion on their sleeve. Well, now is the opportunity to do that which is right, and what do we do? The poor widow woman comes and says, I need help, and we say, well, if you weren't wicked you wouldn't be a widow, first of all; I didn't make you a widow; I didn't make you have those children; get out of my face. Then another situation comes when we're running for office. I believe in family values. That's what's the matter with this society. The family is disintegrating and I believe in family values. I've heard it so much that I am sick of it. Now...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...we come to a situation where a woman is out there struggling on this nickel-and-dime job, and that's the kind of jobs they're getting whether you all believe it or not, and we're going to take away that which might help sustain her. If it was one of us we'd say, I cannot get all my affairs together in two years; I need some time. Senator Beutler gave that program for ag an extension out to the year 2005. I am opposed to the approach being taken by the committee amendment and I'm going to try to do away with that 24-month time limitation, because I'm such a wicked man, unmoved by the supernatural or family values, and it's my wickedness that leads me to have concern for these women.