

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

March 16, 2000 LB 352

that's the kind of circumstances in which an agency can be successful, in which an agency can thrive. I think it needs the support of this body to know that we think it is an important agency, an important commission, and that it has a role, and that we will be supportive of it as long as it is doing its job. And I don't believe there ought to be an automatic sunset on this kind of a commission. This is different from a lot of the boards and commissions that we establish. I haven't been here long enough, and I...maybe Senator Chambers would remember this, but, Senator Chambers, I don't think we've ever put...and I'd like you to correct me if I'm wrong. Have we ever put sunsets on these kinds of commissions that we've established in the past, like the Mexican-American Commission, the Indian Commission, the Women's Commission, all of those kinds of commissions? You're shaking your head "no"? Thank you. I just think you're crippling an agency before it ever has a chance to get started. Now I think it would be perfectly legitimate to ask for a review, after a certain number of years, and try to establish whether that agency is accomplishing what we wanted to accomplish. But to just automatically cut it off at the knees in two or three years I think would be the wrong thing to do, make it very difficult for that agency to function properly. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Again, I rise in opposition to both the amendment to the committee amendment and the committee amendment. I was listening to Senator Chambers and talking about a head and tears and water, and I'll tell you, (laugh) Oliver Wendell Holmes, I believe, said, brevity is the soul of wit. And so I'm going to be brief. The point is, the very fact that these people would come to the Health and Human Services Committee and say whatever, please advance the bill, even if you have to put a sunset on it, indicates how desperate they need...how desperate they want this and how important this commission is to them. The very fact that they would say, just give us a try, they're pleading with you to give us a try, if what it takes to advance the bill is to put a sunset on it indicates how important this is. So I urge you strongly not to adopt the committee amendment or the amendment to the committee amendment. I think that to put a two