

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

March 21, 2000 LB 1217

carrier enforcement officers into state troopers. I opposed that. I should have done more when an attempt was made to give them guns, which attempt was successful. It was the obtaining of the guns that made these people say they should get the training. The argument was then made that since they are going to work in this capacity, they ought to get the training from a state agency which gives it, which is the State Patrol. Having obtained an agreement for the Patrol to train them, they were given the same training as troopers. The argument was then made, well, since we're trained as troopers, we, in fact, are troopers, so let us just be taken over into the State Patrol and let certain individuals be assigned to carrier enforcement. I think there is something unseemly about a law enforcement agency whose members are sworn to uphold the constitution and laws resorting to all kind of stratagems, sleight of hand and, in my mind, trickery to obtain the hiring of more state troopers. You all have said on various occasions, with reference to other programs, consider what will happen when the federal dollars are no longer flowing. We all know or should know that if these individuals are hired under this partially funded federal program, when that money runs out, the State Patrol is going to come in here and say we need these troopers now, we rely on them, don't take them. And the leverage is there, the pressure has been brought to bear, and there is this piecemealing again of putting people to work with the State Patrol, rather than them justifying an outright appropriation and authorization to hire more troopers. Why don't we reach the point where we require these agencies to come in and lay the cards on the table and tell us what it is they are after, and then we can tell them no. But for us to look the other way, to with a wink and a nod allow ourselves to be beguiled by smoke and mirrors into pretending that what is being done is not really being done does not represent wise lawmaking. This money that we're paying out...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is from the General Fund. The Governor has talked about the vetoing he intends to do. There are a lot more programs with far more substance where they are needed than this that we're talking about. And for my friend, the sheriff, Sheriff Schmitt, we don't need more public relations people. We