

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

March 22, 2000 LB 953

29 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Hilgert's amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is agreed to.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote just taken.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to reconsider.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as I stated, I haven't made up my mind ultimately what I intend to do with this bill. But in order to give myself an opportunity to think on the matter, I'm going to discuss some issues associated with this bill with the Legislature, and the tension between the administration and this body. Senator Hilgert had come to me and explained the provisions of an amendment he was offering. Now I don't believe that a person, just because the Governor's vocalizer snatches a senator out there and raises his voice in a very insulting, threatening manner, should be taken by the vocalizer and his boss as the way that every senator in here can be dealt with. And I want to make it crystal-clear to them that if they can deal with 48 senators in here like that, there is one of them that cannot be dealt with in that fashion, and that one is speaking. Senator Ernie Chambers is not going to accept that from any of them. Despite my problems with those people, I have never taken Larry Bare in front of anybody and shouted at him or tried to humiliate him in front of a group. And I'm saying, again, that is the man who came to me when Johanns was mayor and ask that I write a letter of recommendation for him, and I wrote the letter because I didn't know the nature of the man that I was writing the recommendation for. So I acknowledge, at this point, in front of everybody that I totally misjudged the character of an individual and, had I known then what I know now, I would not have written that letter and signed my name to it. But now that the caldron of politics where great heat is generated has served that purifying function of separating the dross from the metal that you want to purify, things become clearer, even to a person such as myself who was so well deceived in the past. This amendment is not that earthshaking. The underlying bill, LB 953, is a worthwhile enactment. Can I blame Senator Vrtiska for what he did in