

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

March 22, 2000 LB 171

my principles and I will suffer the consequences. And I discuss this bill in terms of principle and that's the way I intend to vote. I will vote against Senator Kristensen's amendment, Senator Beutler's amendment, and vote against the bill. And I guess that's why people come to me to make confession and I don't have to go to anybody else to make confession. Either we have principles in these areas or we don't, but we shouldn't start out talking principle and then reduce it to something else. Either we have the principle or we don't, and apparently the principle is not here. And we should have supported Senator Janssen's amendment, but the discussion was about giving these other exemptions and we didn't want to do that. I am never going to be as weak as my colleagues with reference to anything on this floor. Politics can be rough, raw-edged, difficult, but if you have principle and people know what your principles are they know what to look for from you and some things they won't even bring to you. And, also, people like Larry Bare won't get you out in front of people and be shouting at you in front of other people without expecting to get knocked down. So they know and they pick their people and they choose whom they are going to treat how. I was over here trying to get people not to vote for this bill. That's why I called out two of my colleagues by name. But what I said is still true. For their professions of principle, it'd be difficult to explain how they can vote to give this kind of exemption to the category of persons who are going to get it, and that has not changed. But if the only they were not going to vote for the bill was because of what I said, they can forget that. Mine is based on principle. They can see that principle is not guiding this discussion or what will be done on this bill. But I just wish the people I work with would tell me, Ernie, it's principle unless I see a way to cut a deal, and if I can cut the deal I'm going to cut it. Then I know and I won't work with that person when we're in an area where principle is to be at stake. If it's just one of these ordinary kind of issues, like we're going to pay \$1,400 for a leather chair or \$1,200 for a leather chair, well, we can cut all the deals on that and that doesn't mean anything. But I meant this was a bill that only got 25 votes. There was tension. We knew what was at stake. We knew who the lobbyist was on the bill and we know what kind of pressures are going to be exerted. But there are some people I didn't expect to cave in under that pressure and say, well, if they get the