

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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this opportunity to control their own destiny. I will be supporting the bill and hope that you will also. Thank you. I give the remaining of my time back to the floor.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Jensen, on the advancement of LB 352.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, this is the first year that I have voted to the establishment of a separate Commission for the Blind. And I did that with some reservation. But also through the summer I had the opportunity to meet with many of these individuals, had coffee with them, had lunch with them, got to talk with Bob, and Dodie (phonetic), and Mike, and Barbara and put faces on these individuals. First of all, I was convinced and I was impressed that this is a group that not only want independence, they want dignity in operating their own destiny. They are professionals. I'm so inept at computers and yet these people live by it every day, and they can do things that I only wish that I could attain. The soft money that is kind of described in there, I think, they can probably exceed what they are getting right now; they have the ability to do that. And so it was only after visiting with them on one-to-one and in small groups that, yes, I changed my mind from being an opponent to a proponent of these people. And I would ask that, if you're going to vote against it, if you haven't talked to them on a one-on-one, or with a small group of them, that's wrong. And I feel as a representative of my 33,000 people in my district and a representative of the state of Nebraska that it is my desire, anyway, to get out and visit and to see how people conduct themselves and the problems that are out there and then to vote accordingly. So I would just ask you to see in your hearts to the establishment of this commission. It is one that I don't think we're going to see any change whatsoever in dollars. Yes, I...we did have a sunset provision on there that was removed. But you know that we can change any legislation next year that this legislation...or that this body did this year. I think they deserve a chance, and so I would support adopting the...LB 352 and ask for its advancement. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Lynch.