

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

April 5, 2000

LB 972

I think that area of the state is probably going to run the risk of some redistricting which may take from them a representative. Now I don't know that for a fact. But that's what the writing appears to be formulating on the wall. While the rural people have the opportunity to get something out of this money bucket, they had better grab it. You see what has happened when HHS and the Governor had everything their way. Millions of dollars frittered away, blunders made, computer systems that don't work, computer systems that are incompatible, sanctions from the U.S. government, and now we have a young city slicker, excuse me, I shouldn't say that. That may not be quite the level of dignity with which he should be accorded. We have a young city dude, who is going to bring something that will help his rural cousins. It is not a lifesaver. It is not an economy saver, but what it is is an opportunity to do something in the rural areas as a result of a program mandated by the federal government. How many on this floor think that if what Senator Bourne is suggesting had been mandated by the federal government along with everything else that we're doing, anybody on this floor would stand up and say, we're not going to do it? That's why we're doing everything we're doing. So we shouldn't always require the federal government to order us to do something on pain of losing some money. Here is an idea, which as Senator Bourne has pointed out, has encountered opposition but nobody has really said why it will not work. To work means to function in accord with the plan laid out in advance. The plan is that people will operate a telephone and receive certain information and transmit certain information, and everybody who has spoken has conceded that the people who would be doing this work are able to carry it through. Now if somebody can show that a disconnect will result so that activities which are necessary to be undertaken in order to achieve the ultimate result, which is to deliver this child support money as expeditiously as possible to the families where it should go, let that be demonstrated. I don't believe, when you-all get through...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...fiddling around here, doing every thing that you're trying to do on this bill, that this money is going to get from point A to point B in three days. I don't believe it. I do not believe it, but then I'm skeptical and cynical,