

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

April 10, 2000 LB 1021

body. I am not going to speak to the Schimek amendment directly, but the conversation on the introduction of the Schimek amendment and the response from the members of the body on the complexity of the issue leads me to say what I'm going to say. I would ask of those who have been intimately involved in the development of LB 1021 if they would consider a different approach than what we have today on the fifty-eighth day. The fifty-eighth day, two days from the end of a biennial legislative session, we're working on a bill that gets more and more complicated and probably more and more difficult to comply with. I would make this suggestion to those who are primary...primarily involved, that we withdraw all of the amendments; that we do not advance from Select File LB 1021; that we suspend the rules tomorrow and allow Government Committee to introduce an interim study resolution to take a good look at this during the interim, including those who are critical, I would suggest, including those who are critical of the current system; that we not here and now at this point in time go any further in muddying the waters of a 24-year-old system that's worked well. I am not saying that there's not things that we cannot change, that we should not change, but I do believe that we have ran the rope out and found that there's no knot on the end of it to keep us from falling off for the rest of this session. I wouldn't be saying this, this is something I've never said on an issue in all of the years that I've been here, but I believe, because of the impact that this has on everyone in the business of government, it's an extremely serious issue. It carries with it a certain aura of a belief in undependability among all government officials, whether they're elected or employed. It's a serious thing. We should, I think, step back from the precipice and prepare better legislation for introduction in the next session of the Legislature. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Senator Coordsen, I would rise in opposition to your idea, but I certainly will accept the will of the body on this. I do think that we've gotten through the hard part of this bill. I think that we've done some good work here. I feel very