

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

April 10, 2000 LB 1279

exemption for all persons with a permanent physical disability. If that's what we would have been doing, that's what we'd have told you we thought we were doing. That is not what we told you we thought we were doing, that isn't what we could do; that isn't what we could do then, that isn't what we could do now. So I hope you'll reject the Bourne amendment. Whatever your inclinations, whatever your...whatever tugs at your heart, whatever kinds of remarks that Senator Chambers can make about how he would construe the law and maybe even what he thinks policy ought to be, or Senator Bourne, or others who might speak in favor of the Bourne amendment, it isn't reasonable to do what they're suggesting and we can't afford it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Hilgert, on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR HILGERT: I'm kind of...thank you, Mr. President, members. I'm kind of surprised that we advanced as many bills that we did that were vetoed today. They totaled, according to the press release, upwards of \$20 million. I submit to you that this amendment will not cost \$20 million. We didn't have a problem advancing the bills that we did that were vetoed today, unless I am kind in a very secluded minority and I didn't realize that we did that just so that they all could get vetoed. So the argument of that, well, we can't afford it, well, we could afford \$23 million that was just vetoed today. What I have a problem with, and we have...there's a reality here, we're not going to get a definition from...that's going to be workable, I believe. We had assurances, last year, that there was going to be comprehensive study regarding this. What came out of the comprehensive study regarding the disability was that let's include all disabled folks' income as income when calculating the homestead exemption. I naively thought that we were going to try to solve the problem I brought to the body at the end of last session, and that's a mistake on my part. I...it's all on me. I'm the one who looks bad here. I accept that. But when we reconvened, I was informed that the solution was, well, we'll just count it all as disability, and that will be consistent, and uniform, and nice and neat. And now we're here again saying, well, let's study it; we'll go back and we'll study this. I don't think we're ever going to get anything that broadens the homestead exemption or that takes care of these