

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

April 10, 2000 LB 1279

issue is any less serious or problematic. This bill is problematic because there are things in it that people are in favor of. But what Senator Wickersham did was to take that spacecraft that the people on "Star Trek" ride on and introduce an alien force that is infectious, so tiny that you cannot see it with the naked eye. It makes no sound, it has no odor, but it can be devastating in its consequences. So he chose to attach to this bill an alien element, an alien protein, Senator Wickersham, that can infect the whole body. And that's all an infection is, an alien protein invades the body. Everything in there that is supposed to fight against these invaders is on the alert. Then these white blood cells begin to marshal their forces, and when they meet the protein, they surround it, they try to destroy it if they can. And it is that battle that causes inflammation or fever. One of the difficulties in diagnosing certain brain disorders is because there is no fever associated with the condition. There is no immune reaction. So scientists are puzzled. We don't have to be puzzled about LB 1279, though. We can zero in right on that alien protein. That is the pathogenic agent. Now if you destroy the pathogen, you can restore the body to health. If the pathogen is allowed to stay there, to divide, to take a foothold, to multiply and create what we would call a disease, then the entire body may die. I don't know how far Senator Bourne is going to take his bracket motion, but if it were mine, you know we'd be here for the downs. But this one isn't mine. But I'm supporting the bracket motion because I still am smarting from Senator Wickersham's amendment. He did, as I've acknowledged, put the law in the condition he said he wanted it to be in, but I disagree with the law being in that condition. So the bill has an element which to me is so unworthy that the rest of the bill cannot overcome it. Therefore, I will support the bracket motion and, if that fails and we wind up coming to a vote on the bill, my lonely vote, maybe in the company of two or three others, will be no.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bourne, you're recognized to close on the motion to bracket LB 1279.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I put the bracket motion on this bill because I really felt like I didn't