

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

January 8, 2003

Chair of the committee. And some of the things that have been talked about are things that were started at the time that I was serving as Chair of that committee. I think all of you that know me, at least those of you here that know me, know that I have a deep respect for the legislative process that we carry on in this body. And I believe that in representing the people in my district and the state as a whole is one of my goals that I've attempted to do, and I think I've been rather successful in that area. When I first considered the possibility of asking for your vote for the position that I'm asking you for, I asked myself, what makes a good leader? The answers are, the qualities of a strong vision, the ability to look out into the future and see what kind of challenges there are out there for us. Certainly, integrity and common sense play a big role in proven leadership, and I think I can do that. Also, a knowledge of the committee's areas of interest are important in the leadership role. I believe that my ten years of experience in the Legislature and my institutional knowledge of serving on this committee a number of years, two years as Chair and several years as Vice Chair, leads me to believe that I have the ability and the desire, certainly, to move forward with this committee. Again, I certainly enjoy working with the committee and all the parties that come to the committee with their interests to be addressed in the hearings. One thing that I certainly understand is the labor and the problems in this day and age that labor is being...the problems that they are being challenged with. And of course, I also understand business. Our business communities are in difficult times, as we all know. And those are the things that need to be brought together at the table, and compromises need to be worked out, and decisions brought forth from those compromises. I think I have the ability to do that, to work with both sides, of labor and business, to accomplish what needs to be done. And I pledge that I will do that. As most of you know, I have at least two years left in the Legislature. And it's my desire in those two years to serve as Chair of this committee and resolve some of the issues that are out there that need to be addressed. And I assure you that I will do everything I can to get those things done, something I really put my heart and soul into if I'm elected to this committee Chair. And with that, I thank you, and would ask for your vote.