

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

January 27, 2003 LB 92

that he wanted to be in a position to tell the rubes out there who pay taxes that he tried to nibble at the corporations but the Legislature said no. That bill went down to defeat. Do you know that 10 or 11 rural senators voted for it, and it only got 25 or 26 votes? Without the rural senators, it could not have been defeated. And I stood on this floor and I...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...mocked them, I taunted them, I tried to get them to stand up and do something for themselves. You don't win every issue. But if they know that you're going to put up a fight, they will begin to take you seriously. That bill would have been enacted into law. The Governor could not have vetoed it, because he presented it to us. They gave him a chance, the rural senators did, to have it both ways, to say he tried to make the corporations pay their part, but the Legislature said no. And when I presented these things to the rural senators, at a point when it would make some difference, they just tuned me out. They let a metal shield slide across their forehead, and they gave the corporations what they wanted, and the corporations continue to laugh at the rural senators and never consider them a force worthy of note in any of our legislative proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I just would like to share with you again that I believe that this is the right thing to do at this time in regards to the Rural Development Commission. The commission is seeking the nonprofit status so that it can have an open membership structure. And that's one of the requirements that have been set out in the National Rural Development Partnership Act that is included in the 2002 Farm Bill. This is not the path that we would have originally chosen. But because of circumstances last spring, this will enable the commission to go ahead then and continue to do the work by applying for some grants and also receiving any other monies from any groups. The nonprofit status will allow them to do that. So I just would hope that you would support this change in eliminating the statute