

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

January 27, 2003 LB 306

list out a group of categories of things that I'm doing, I can attach any dollar figure I want to any one of those categories, and by the time you add up all the dollar figures, it costs more money than I have to do what I claim to be doing. But nobody makes these people give an accounting of what it is they're actually doing when they say they're spending this money. Do I distrust Game and Parks any more than I distrust anybody else? No. Somebody was talking about how honest lawyers are, and somebody said, well, they're as honest as the next man. Well, that's not a ringing endorsement. But the point that I need to make here is that we're talking about the public having to spend money mandated by the state. Is the amount that's being taken justifiably being taken? I haven't heard a word on this floor that justifies this bill. What I have heard is that they're not going to raise the fees, that they don't need this bill right now. If we don't need it right now, let's not pass it right now. But if they insist on passing it now, they have been disingenuous, meaning they have desired to mislead the Legislature, telling you, we're not going to make use of the bill right now, when in reality that's their intent. And there's supposed to be that winking and nodding among us, because we know the game. The only ones on the outs are the public. They don't know. We're working the three-card monte game, we and the Game and Parks Commission. And the public thinks we're watching the operator to make sure he doesn't cheat. But we're right there. When it looks like somebody might catch on to the cheating, we go, ahem, to distract the person who's about to catch the cheater, so the cheater can cheat. We're trying to fly all of this under the radar, so the public will not see what we're doing. I am opposing this bill on principle, because, I repeat again, if you want to charge somebody who's going to go out and kill an animal with a high-powered weapon, make him pay through the nose. Then he's going to take his little children out there and have a picture of himself and his little boy proudly splashed across the Sunday paper, where his kid killed a beautiful animal. And he takes pride in having destroyed a beautiful creature of nature. And now we're not talking about culling herds because you have chronic wasting disease. We're talking about a lottery where there are so few of these creatures that you're privileged if you happen to be one of the lucky ones so you can go out and you