

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

January 28, 2003 LB 306

take responsibility for things that the Legislature does, because those things need to be done and I am a big target and I can take the heat. What kind of heat is it? People are going to make an ugly face at me? They're going to write a critical editorial? Or somebody is going to say they would give me a one-way ticket to Iraq or Iran or Afghanistan or some other exotic place? And that's supposed to influence the way I do my business as a member of the Legislature? No way. But my job, as I see it this session, is to keep our feet to the fire, and that's what I'm going to do, to the extent that I can. Enough of the senators have been here long enough to be aware of additional motions that I can make on this bill, and I'm going to make them. If this bill passes, you ought to leave the Governor alone on his Policy Research Office. He can show a better rationale for that than you can for this bill, because he'll at least say he needs the money. Game and Parks tells us, we don't need this money; we don't need to raise these fees. So you say, we're going to put a gun to your head and make you take it. We're going to force you to take the power to raise these fees, and that's behaving responsibly. I don't think so. Now, what specifically can be done with this bill to allow us to arrive at an accord? Game and Parks people, if you hit them on the head often enough, they'll begin to see the light. Now, these senators will not be allowed to see the light until Game and Parks takes the blindfold off and says, well, you can do differently now. So, although I'm talking on the floor of the Legislature, I have to be getting a message through to Game and Parks. They're going to have other bills, there are going to be other things they want, so at some point they're going to tell their water carriers we need to do something. How unreasonable is it, brothers and sisters, to give them a six percent increase in these fees...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and strike all of this other stuff which allows them to raise the fees willy-nilly, with no legislative oversight, no accountability, no necessity of justifying the increase by showing a need. That's the approach, and that's the approach I'm willing, at this point, to offer them. But if they don't want that then they can just let the bill stay here and