

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

February 18, 2003 LB 52

treatment of civilian employees of the Federal Government, to the extent permitted by law." Here is an executive order issued by the President of the United States, prohibiting any agency of the executive branch of government from discriminating in employment based on sexual orientation. For those people who say they have not seen statistics indicating that this is a serious problem, I ask them the following question. If it is not a serious problem, why would the President of the United States, by way of an executive order, address the issue of discrimination in employment at the government level, based on sexual orientation? The President issued the executive order because it is an evil that affects the employment practices and policies of the government of the United States. And when a person who feels a sense of moral responsibility, and at the same time exercises governmental authority, becomes aware of an evil affecting the citizens of this country, or a segment of the citizenry, in a way that is inappropriate and unjust, that person takes the action available to correct that evil and lift it off that segment of the population, a segment comprised of our brothers and sisters, our fellow citizens. The President acted. The dodge of hiding behind the absence of statistics is so fallacious that Stevie Wonder can see it, Ray Charles can see it, George Shearing...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...can see it. Each of these men, renowned for musical virtuosity, is blind. When something is so obvious a blind man can see it, it cannot be made more obvious. As a matter of fact, it is self-evident. The attitude that exists in this country and in this state must be addressed by somebody. It ought to be addressed by the government. I am a member of the government. It is my responsibility to address this issue, and I intend to do so. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, your light is next, and this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, some people will say that sexual orientation is not