

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

March 19, 2003 LB 117, 148, 276, 444, 499, 546, 608, 634
636, 719, 721, 754
LR 62

Agriculture reports LB 276 as indefinitely postponed, LB 634 indefinitely postponed, LB 636 indefinitely postponed. Government reports LB 117 to General File with amendments; LB 444, General File with amendments. Urban Affairs reports LB 499 to General File with amendments, likewise with LB 719, LB 721. And Agriculture reports LB 754 to General File with amendments. I have amendments to be printed: Senator Landis to LB 148, and Senator Thompson to LB 546. New resolution, LR 62, Mr. President. That will be laid over. That's all that I have. (Legislative Journal pages 980-994.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Next item on this component of the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the committee amendment with AM0903. (Legislative Journal page 995.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, this amendment does not affect in any substantial way what we're doing today, but it is a message that I think needs to be delivered to the federal government because there's no way out of this dilemma we're in. At least I haven't heard any way out of this dilemma we're in unless the federal government acts. And the dilemma that we're in is that government is being forced. Government is being whipsawed into this state into greater and greater involvement with economic incentive programs to corporations and businesses. And the reason that probably most of us are going along with this is very, very simple. If we don't do it, Arkansas will, or Iowa will, or California will. This whole thing started back in 1956, in Alabama, when they made tax-exempt a thing called industrial development bonds, and once they did that then it began to spread in the South, then it spread to the Midwest, until it was all across the country in just a few years and every state had then tax-exempt industrial development bonds to try to attract business from other states. But once it was done everywhere, there was no incentive left there. There was no way of attracting somebody from another state. You were in the same place you were before Alabama began