

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 15, 2003      LB 435

pages 1282-1283.)      22 ayes, 18 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** The amendment is not adopted. Next item on the bill. I raise the call. Next item on the bill, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend. (FA1313, Legislative Journal page 1283.)

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Senator Chambers, to open on your amendment.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, appropriately, this floor amendment is numbered 1313, double ugly. What it would do on page (sic) 8 is strike the word "eighty" and insert "forty-five." That would raise the amount from the current \$5.15 to \$5.45, which would be an increase of 30 cents. And I think, since I brought up religion, it's appropriate that I stick with the religious allusions. There was a man that some people around here pretend to think a lot of and he was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, 30 cents. Thirty has a particularly nice ring to it. This guy was one who would have been betrayed by most of the people on this floor, and let me tell you why. He was concerned about the poor. He was concerned about the hungry. He was concerned about the naked, those who were imprisoned, those who were fatherless, those who were motherless, those who were friendless, those who not only were ill but who had leprosy--a very foul, odious disease that was considered so dehumanizing that anybody with it had to cry out, if another person approached, unclean, unclean. People who had been reduced to "thinghood" by society, as is done often by this Legislature, were of concern to that man who was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Today, the going price is a lot less. They betray him on the floor of this Legislature for nothing, for nothing. I want whoever says that prayer and whoever is up here listening to that prayer, for whatever difference it might make to you, to know the contempt that I have for that whole hypocritical ritual. That means nothing. And there are people on this floor who have the nerve to get up there and pray. Well, not everybody believes in that, and you bring it into a political setting so expect a political reaction. When your actions don't comport with all of the