

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

April 29, 2003 LB 407

people were not around here when the money was being appropriated for those prisons. I fought very hard against that money; so did Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I did manage to persuade the body not to put some Quonset huts out there that would have been more space for more prisoners and would be costing more money today. What ought to be done, when I bring up my PEAP amendment, is to adopt it--cut out all the money. Then, as we proceed, maybe you can persuade me that we have enough money to put it back. Put in any case, I'm putting that ball in the Legislature's court. I've told you what I intend to do. I don't know if Martin Luther said this. Here I stand. I'm not going to be hammering pieces of paper on a door. I'm going to knock down some doors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Thompson, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I went into this process in Appropriations, as Senator Chambers said, kind of staking out a position, and my position was, if it wasn't a person emptying a bedpan in a veterans' home, if it wasn't a person guarding a prisoner, if it wasn't a person investigating child abuse or teaching a child, then it was on the table. And I came out of the process thinking about some other things entirely, and I've been thinking about what would my parents think. Now that's kind of an odd thing to come out with, but I've been thinking about the book, The Greatest Generation, and my parents grew up in the poverty of the thirties. My grandparents were absolutely impoverished. After my dad came home from the war, he talked about how he just basically didn't have a nickel and it was only through the kindness of his employer that he even made it through the first month of his work because he didn't have even enough money to wash his clothes. So I grew up hearing from them about the trials and tribulations they had in their lifetime, and even in all that poverty and in the years that went on there were two things that I remember. One is, I never heard them or my