

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

May 22, 2003

LB 270

you've heard his attitude when the issue of sexual orientation came up before. I had a bill to prohibit sexual orientation as a basis for discrimination in employment. It was toward the end of the session and he was able to defeat it. It showed how rabid he is in his hatred or fear of gay and lesbian people. Nothing else can account for the rabidness of his position, as I view it. And if I saw somebody that rabid on another issue that was of interest to me, I'd characterize it the same way. He has not taken that position on any other thing. He has voted in favor of bills on this floor that were amended by material that had no public hearing at all, and he voted for some of them. So to say that he was against putting that in the bill because it was not a part of the hearing is so much bosh. But I'll tell you one thing that was discussed with the committee; that in the Code of Judicial Conduct is a prohibition by the courts against any discrimination in the courts based on sexual orientation. That was said in front of Senator Foley. Now he might deny it, but others on the committee remember it. And that's why that amendment fit what that drug court bill was supposed to be about. Any time an issue is raised on the floor, I'm going to address it. Even when he's calling himself filibustering my bill, I answered questions that he put to me. I could have said, in view of what he's trying to do, I don't want to answer any questions. Senator Landis has done that. I have never run for cover like that in the way that Senator Landis did or in the way Senator Foley does, because I am a man in everything that I do and I will always stand tall. I'm going to be an example of what we ought to be, not one who runs for cover and ducks and dodges and hides. And when my view changes, I acknowledge it, and you will never see me running in and out of here to get instructions from people behind the glass, telling me what I ought to do.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's why he lost an amendment the other day that he could have gotten his bill, on Senator Stuhr's bill, because he let some people outside the glass talk to him. Then, when I pull the amendment, he runs down to me and says, I'll accept it. It was too late. If he'd function as an independent person on this floor there are a lot more things he probably