

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

January 12, 2004 LB 172

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I'm deliberately drawing a parallel, and I want it to be something that my colleagues here can understand and relate to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There are no further lights. You're recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President...Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I agree 100 percent with what Senator Wehrbein said. I think BSE are three of the scariest words in the language in America at this point. It's good that people are afraid. They need to be. And the cattle industry needs to be given a message. If any of you all get a headache...by the way, the CJD, once symptoms show up, will take you out in six months. The variant takes about 14 months, sometimes a little longer, so you have an opportunity to suffer longer. Headaches, you begin to have trouble with your balance, you stumble, you stagger, then you hallucinate. Pretty soon you lose all ability to walk. You lose the ability to talk. As various parts of your brain are attacked and the holes are eaten, the impact is greater. Many people are stricken blind. Then, because they lose the power to swallow, starvation ensues. But if they're lucky, pneumonia will set in and they'll drown in their pneumonia quicker. And there is pain. It is a terrible, terrible debilitating disease. It is 100 percent fatal. It is unforgiving, it is merciless, it is relentless. There is no remission. And the public needs to know this. There are jokes that people in the cattle industry make. Some people will say, I'm more worried about somebody not washing their hands than I am about BSE. That's because they don't know what BSE is. And if there are people who have died from it, the public needs to know. The peculiar thing is that scrapie--that's one of those brain-degenerating diseases in sheep, and it's called that, and I see Senator Janssen nodding yes. They itch so bad that they scrape their wool off trying to get relief. But you can eat scrapie-infected sheep meat and you won't get it. But the same type of agent that causes BSE in cows causes scrapie in sheep. So why, if you eat one, will you not be infected, but if you eat the other, you are? I don't know the answer. Obviously,