

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

February 17, 2004 LB 963
LR 232

capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 232. The next speaker on this amendment is Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Chambers, I would like to continue the discussion with you just a bit, if I might. And as I'm thinking about what you said, it seems to me as if the reverse almost might be true, because now you have fewer persons serving in the...in the regular military who will be coming out who might want to join the National Guard. I mean, we don't have the draft anymore, we don't have the numbers of active duty service people that we used to have, and so it almost seems as if it would be the reverse. And if it's...if it's worked well up to now then maybe it doesn't need to be changed, and I would...I would ask that, you know, if you have any thoughts on that, you would respond.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will respond. What you say is a possibility, but there will always be people returning from wars. Some will enter the National Guard or the Army Reserves perhaps. What might stop them is the fact that the Guard and the reserves are now viewed almost as adjuncts to combat units. People who did not anticipate going into combat are going. They are not adequately trained for that. They are not adequately equipped. And the Guard and the reserves have positions of the kind that a person can be trained in and then take it into civilian life. That's why a lot of these kind of people who are being drawn from the reserves and the Guard are being drawn, because in the regular military these positions are not filled to that extent. So when you draw in people who had no anticipation that they would face combat, you change the nature of the Guard and the reserves. And people who were joining because it was going to be some extra money, an opportunity to learn something that could enhance employment opportunities in private life, are now facing the real likelihood, not just possibility, of being called into combat and facing an early death. The Guard and the reserves have become so strained now and thousands, tens of thousands more are contemplated by Rumsfeld of being called up even as we speak. People who formerly went into the Guard are not going to join. Although they're trying to keep a brave face when they talk about recruitment, the recruitment of people into the Guard and the