

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

February 24, 2004 LB 1049

somebody else's time, and his or her light is next, the Chair will apologize because the person usually is allowed to just continue, moving right on. But the Speaker did not make that smooth seamless transition, so that's what he was apologizing for. Now if anybody reads the transcript, they will not misunderstand. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it looks as though there is some late-breaking news from Senator Vrtiska, so I would like to switch to the right side of the aisle in order that we might be let in on this. Senator Vrtiska,...

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...what is the news you would like to bring to us?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And, Senator Chambers, I wanted to review, because I kind of misunderstood your question. We are actually 46th in the benefits...in the benefits. We're 42nd in the premiums. So we're pretty close on both of them. So I wanted to make sure that I had the record right and it's...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. That makes it even worse. That means the benefits that these working people, who no longer are working, receive right now are 46th worst in the country. And you're proud of that? This Legislature, which talks about a quality of life, which on occasion may even use the term "social justice," I've even heard the term "equity" used, not talking about the interests that a person has in real property, but in the sense of that which is fair, proper and due to an individual. Even where the law may not require that a certain thing be done, equity would say that it should. We have a set of circumstances where a wrong exists and there ought to be a remedy. Even though the law does not provide it, in its blindness or its lack of flexibility, equity will step in and do that which not only is legal but that which is just. And this that Senator Cunningham and the pack following him are offering to us is just unjust. It is grossly unfair. For a state that