

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

April 6, 2004

LB 943

the discussion but I think it is. There is such a thing as professional courtesy. There is such a thing as rudeness. People have often tried to amend other senator's bill. When it became clear that it as controversial, that senator would pull the amendment or not offer it. I won't go around the room and ask senators who have experienced this. I have a DNA bill on which I put a lot of work. I don't think there's a great amount of controversy surrounding it, and I've been asked why I didn't attach it to Senator Johnson's bill, since a DNA amendment was already attached. Rather than put mine on his or even try, based on the amount of work that had been done on his bill, I did not do it. Mine is a priority bill. Mine is not going to be dealt with this session. In the past, I had an amendment that I would offer frequently to make a point dealing with sexual orientation. I don't know if I offered it on Senator Quandahl's bill this year or not, but I would make my point, then I'd pull the amendment. This is one of those sets of circumstances where, whatever Senator Foley's intention is, he can do anything he wants to, just like you can file any kind of lawsuit that you choose. But this is a body of legislators. There are ways that things are done which are not written in the rules. Not every rule of courtesy is written. Not every rule that relates to good manners is written. Some things are expected to be obvious to people, and you treat people the way you'd like to be treated yourself. Now, if I am blasted on one of my bills, I just take that as par for the course because I'm a blaster myself, but I have not put an amendment on somebody's bill just to bring it down. I have not tried to make a point that somebody in the lobby told me to do to fix some people. Now, what this really is an attempt to do is, I think, to take a slam at the Speaker because the Speaker is doing a different thing with the agenda, so this is a way to circumvent the Speaker. I don't know if he's trying to be clever like he thinks I try to be clever, but I haven't tried to circumvent the Speaker with my DNA priority bill, and I don't think it's anywhere near as controversial as Senator Foley's. So the body, as always, is free to do what it chooses, but there is more here than a germaneness issue. There is more here than a senator offering an amendment to a bill. I don't know how people will vote, I don't know what their motivation will be in voting, but I have to make my position crystal-clear on the floor, on the