

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

March 9, 2005

LB 44

the debate and, at this moment, I cannot say now I'm exactly sure how I will vote on the bill. I understand what Senator Redfield is attempting to do and, on the other hand, the letters and the comments that have been addressed to me by others who will not be able to deduct their mortgage payments from their income tax have an argument that I have to give some consideration to also. Since my comments are brief on that subject, I hate to stand up and say so few words, so I've got to send a message to you-all's Governor. I used to have a good relationship with him, I thought. I read a comment in the paper attributed to Senator Schimek which was that if the Governor vetoes that bill that would allow ex-felons to vote, it would not damage his relationship with the Legislature. Louis the XIV, the Sun King, the Great, said l'etat, c'est moi. I don't know how to say Legislature in French. Le Legislature, c'est moi. And Louis meant I am the state. I am the Legislature. I want the Governor to know that, I want him to understand that. And my colleagues, who may allow the Governor to bully them, need to realize that I'm the one you have to live with, not the Governor. The Governor, after getting you, if he can, to turn tail, is not going to be there for you on your little old bill which you might need his support on. That bill should easily override a veto by the Governor. I don't believe in waiting till after the fact to make comments which, if made before the fact, might prevent that fact from occurring. He will waste a veto. He will exhaust what little goodwill he may have in the Legislature. You all are one house of the Legislature; I am the Legislature. You're a component part, an important component, but you are not the Legislature. You know why I say that? Because the Governor will not treat the Legislature in the way he intends to do. He is not aware yet that I'm the Legislature, so I have to teach him. You all just happen to have been caught in a crossfire. Much work was done on that bill. Many senators, especially young Senator Flood, made very profound comments in support of that bill. I don't know who's advising the Governor. I don't know whether it's his chief of staff, who may not be around forever. But the Governor is a political animal. He's going to want to run for another office. He's going to have to boast about what he got done through this Legislature. If he shows himself to be petty and vindictive, as he has on one occasion dealing with me directly,