

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

April 11, 2005 LB 739

business section on page 1 is a large headline that runs about four-fifths of the way across the page, "Buffett's tip led to AIG probe"; then, you could call this a subhead, "The Berkshire chairman's actions in another reinsurance case led authorities to expand their investigation." Buffett, in a bid to win leniency for Berkshire from prosecutors in an unrelated case directed his outside lawyer several months ago to turn over documents describing a suspect transaction between a Berkshire unit and AIG. Buffett had a friend named Maurice "Hank" Greenberg, and he's the one who lost his job because Buffett ratted on him. I think I'm going to use this opportunity to go after one of these big shots who is not particularly concerned about the workers. Superwealthy Warren Buffett, man, he's filthy rich; / Warren Buffett also is a billion-dollar snitch, / Scratching for a bargain deal, his own sad woes to end, / Wily, wealthy Warren Buffett ratted out his friend. / In the cutthroat world of business there is a well-worn signpost-- / Every rogue goes for himself; the devil take the hindmost. / Maurice "Hank" Greenberg is Buffett's ex-friend's name--ex-friend; / X does always mark the sneaky snitch's game. / Wealthy Warren did his snitching not to do what's right, / But to garner leniency to mitigate his plight. / Wealthy Warren, rationalizing, cooed "I'm not the worst; / He'd have snitched on me if I had failed to get him first. / Hank's aware of how this game is played, forget the hype, / Though outsiders may not understand, Hank's got no gripe." / Thick eyeglasses, rumpled suits, his tousled hair and grin, / Perfectly do camouflage the predator within. / Oh, he is a predator, no doubt; best get that right. / Were he in the realm of sharks, he'd be the greatest white. / Buffett's homespun manner--aw gee gosh, folks, and aw shucks-- / do divert attention as he lines up all his ducks. / Business ethics, deeply flawed they are to say the least, / ethics flawed or otherwise can never tame that beast. / Money grasping draws respectable men into a scuffle. / Ethics, ah, poor ethics always get lost in the shuffle. / Flush and satisfied investors stomach everything, / Regardless how unethical, as long as there's a "cha-ching." / Futile is the effort with the brush of blame to paint / Buffett. Worshipful investors laud him Warren the Saint. / Baggy britches, outsized coats enclose investor hope. / If but one man could survive, it wouldn't be the Pope. / For investors papal blessings nor the sign of the cross / Carry any