

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

February 23, 2006 LB 975

make a determination, and I'm not prepared to let the Legislature, at the state level, dictate that these numbers are automatically to be allowed by way of an increase over the number of critters that already are present in this operation. Now, we can fight it through, and you may have 33 people here who will go with you, but this just becomes another of those bills on my radar screen that will help me to eat up the remaining six weeks. And I'll be quite frank with you, I have other fish that I intend to fry, and I'll fry my colleagues along with them. I will not be deterred. I will not be bargained with. I will not be negotiated with, which doesn't mean I won't listen to you, but you're not going to change my mind or soften my position. I told you to look up Atropos. Atropos has now taken me over and that's where we are. Now, my amendment that I'm proposing, even if adopted, would be wiped out if you then turned around and adopted an amendment that Senator Beutler, or whichever person is going to sign it as the introducer, will offer. Legislating can become somewhat complex when there are differing and different interests on the battlefield. Young Senator Bourne had said that I was going to wear out, and he's right. If you look at me, can't you not see how haggard I am, how lacking in energy that I have become? My poor little voice, which is weak at best, is now shaky, unsteady. Let me show you what happens if I hold my hands up. Look at that--shaking like I have the ague! So all you all have to do is challenge me. Make me put up and, by so doing, make me shut up, because it's obvious that I lack the physical stamina to deliver on the threat that I'm making. Consider it an idle threat. Consider it shooting blanks. Consider it whatever you want to, but I am not one of those people who will say, because the battle is going against me or that I'm weary, I will stop and take low. You're going to have to beat me to the ground. You're going to have to stomp me into the ground, and you're going to have to put enough weight upon me so that I cannot rise to my feet again. Now, when you look at me, and I'm not much bigger than a minute at best, I will tell you this much. It's not going to be quite as easy a project as you might think when you stand away from me some distance and consider that somebody else is going to allow me, to mix metaphors, bell the cat. The mice who are not participating in the belling may think that it's a very simple matter, but the one who has to actually