

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

April 10, 2000 LB 1021

problems, many of them. Many of them can be solved by further definition and...and I think I could construct an amendment that would probably make you feel comfortable with most everything. But, nonetheless, the complexity of the matter has been...has been demonstrated by Senator Matzke's comments, Senator Engel's comments, Senator Wickersham's comments, a lot of comments on the floor, so I hope that's helpful. But there are two things I think that I don't agree with that I heard as kind of a matter of how we approach this generally. First of all, in talking about these kinds of laws, I don't think we should think that we're blaming somebody or not blaming somebody else or that we're...have to recognize wrongdoing. All we're doing is talking about a set of laws that would be good for us, that should be applicable to us. I don't think we have to get into an emotional discussion of whether we're good or bad people. We're like all people. Most of us are good most all the time, and especially in this Legislature, but from time to time historically people are people an even in this Legislature people are going to be bad, are going to stretch the rules. That's why you have rules, isn't it? Senator Landis, in his Banking Committee, I suppose if I testified before him that there should be no criminal penalties applicable to bankers because, by and large, they're good people, what would he say? Well, he would tell me that's ridiculous. (Laugh) He's shaking his head in agreement. Are we better than bankers, or worse than bankers, or no different than bankers and probably should have the same kinds of standards applied to us, shouldn't we? We should define what the right rules are and hope the carrot works but know that, generally speaking, in all our laws we've always had the stick and when we want to apply the stick to ourselves it doesn't...it doesn't look quite right, if that's the only reason for not applying the stick, so I wish we could get past that kind of discussion. And the other thing that bothers me is the thing about the appearance of impropriety versus impropriety and, to a measure of course, those that say there are certain element of our people that will never be satisfied, they speak truly. On the other hand, it's important that there's broad, broad support out there in the public and I think that campaign finance laws, that ethics laws, all of those kinds of things that we can do, do in fact garner us some additional measure, some additional increment of support in the public and that to the extent that we can do those things and at