

all. With that, I will relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Lynch and hope that this debate brings out what is a vote for me.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, I just tried to press my light, but it didn't work. I'm not quite sure if this is the way it works, but...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would you do me a favor and try to press your light one more time? Okay, I was just wondering if it was working up here. Yeah, it is on now.

SENATOR LYNCH: Okay. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: But you are speaking now on the remainder of Senator Pedersen's opening, as I understand it.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members and Senator Pedersen, I appreciate the chance to talk about it one more time. I know it was a very close vote the last time and I feel obliged to explain to the body what I think are some reasons that we probably didn't discuss before or completely understand that would justify at least a reconsideration vote, the opportunity to talk about it and maybe even to support it. Just to remind you, LB 248 would require that all contractors register with the Department of Labor prior to being allowed to do any construction work in the state. In order to register, each contractor in the state would have to provide proof to the department that the contractor has workers' compensation insurance coverage, either through an insurance carrier or is self-insured. What it does is register only contractors. It has an annual renewal. Everyone gets a registration number, but most importantly it creates a paper trail that will help protect consumers and legitimate, especially smaller subcontractors and professional contractors and also workers, as well. Also, what it does not do is important for you to remember and understand. It does not apply to any areas of the state except Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy County and I'll explain, before I'm finished, why that's still important. It does not apply to real property or annexations. By that, I mean it doesn't apply to work done by auto mechanics or for any kind of machine repairs and it doesn't apply to over-the-road drivers, anybody that contracts independently for that kind of work. Also, it does