

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

February 17, 2005 LB 96

force, entity, in that being. So there are things that I'm going to talk about. And it will, in a sense, be a debate. I will have colleagues sitting in their chairs, thinking of what they could say, what they ought to say, but which they dare not say. I see my good friend Senator "Patton," walking down the aisle to his seat with a cup of coffee in his hand, waiting for the opportunity to draw an analogy between his and my activities, and those between Napoleon and Wellington. And I'm waiting with bated breath for him to make that disclosure to us, and to use what has become a cliché for me, improve the education of all of us. But in the meantime, I'm going to get back to this bill. As it's written--I want to emphasize this--an adjutant general is given carte blanche to do whatever he wants to do. Why in this instance do I just say "him" rather than "him or her"? You're not going to have a female adjutant general in this state. Senator Thompson, as I pointed out, prevailed on the body to adopt an amendment which said that this aid can range from 0 to 100 percent. I don't think that kind of leeway should be given to anybody who is administering an aid program. When you have an organization such as the National Guard, although most of the people who join are looking for some quick, easy money, a chance to have their education subsidized, they still may have differing opinions on other matters. Some people are considered mess-ups in a military setting. They ask questions, they don't jump when somebody pops a finger, and they insist on being treated with dignity and respect. These people are not liked by commanding officers. Commanding officers in a military setting must be able to command unquestioning obedience, no matter how dumb the commanding officer is. Disregard the fact that he got his position because of a political appointment. The uniform, the position entitle him to what he considers to be unflinching, unquestioning obedience, and some people will not go along with that program. This bill, as drafted, puts a stick in the hands of the adjutant to punish such people. I have not seen my colleagues, including...I see Senator Landis walking. Senator Landis wouldn't agree with something like this at the university if there were a set of circumstances where the head of a department could punish unpopular people working in the department by granting boons to some and withholding them from others, and be authorized under the statute of Nebraska to do so. I don't see Senator Raikes,