

February 19, 1980

LB 319

would Senator Chambers answer a couple of questions for me?

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, will you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, can...let Senator Chambers and I kind of have a little discord between the two of us here. I am just kind of trying to establish what Senator Chambers has in mind here. As I see what you are proposing, Senator Chambers, you are proposing a mini-Davis Bacon Act right here in Nebraska, and what that act does is it says that you shall pay the prevailing wage in that area. Now in, say, Lincoln, if some of the inmates were assigned to jobs of working on the prison itself, the actual construction part of the prison, or out of the prison even onto a project, a construction project, we would then have to pay the prisoner, the inmate, the prevailing wage, and let's say we...and I know we all agree that electricians don't do bad things, but let's assume that one slipped one day and actually got in there, and the electrician was assigned to a chore some place, being an electrician, and you had to pay him \$18.95 an hour. Is that the intent of your amendment? Because that is what the rest of the electricians in the community get.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Goodrich, let me try to unravel the question and then give an answer. This is not a mini-Davis Bacon Act, and the amendment is not drafted to say that the prevailing wage in the region, community or anything else...it says at the business locus, l-o-c-u-s, which means the site or the location where the work is being done. At that location, if people are being paid a certain amount, then at that location the inmate would be given the same amount. You don't go across the street or across the county to determine what somebody else doing a similar thing is being paid, you look right at the site where the person is working.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay, then...and I can...you know, I know what locus means, site as...picketing, and all that comes up. We have to discuss it. Now...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I am not talking about picketing.

SENATOR GOODRICH: I know, but I know what locus means, but it doesn't change the meaning of your amendment. It doesn't change the meaning of the argument of your inserting