

business community is not, I am going to stay with the compromise that I made. I made it in good faith. I remember very well when I made the initial compromise which got this bill going which was to say that if a plaintiff and a defendant are equally negligent, the plaintiff recovers nothing. And I remember when I made that compromise and I remember the president of the Nebraska Association of Trial Lawyers sent a letter to every member of the trial lawyers and said, Brad Ashford has thrown in the towel to the business community, Brad Ashford has thrown in the towel and that letter was going out to every single trial lawyer, and I am a trial lawyer. It's sort of like, well, it's sort of like what you can imagine it's sort of like. And I remember that somehow the letter was retrieved and it was brought to me and I read it and I said, my God, what is going on here? I am not an independent contractor in this legislation because the first week I was down here I sat down and tried to work out a compromise because I knew we needed to change the system because I had been working in the system since 1974. People in agribusiness come up with legislation. Senator Elmer talks about legislation in his field. I don't know anything about it and I have to listen to him when he talks about Curtis. I don't know anything about Curtis, but I listened to him and I voted for it because he knows about Curtis and there are people that talk about other issues and they bring them up on the floor and I don't know about them, I have to listen to them. I am a trial lawyer. I have been a trial lawyer since 1974 and I have worked very hard on this legislation and it was and is a compromise and I wish I could be of clean hands like Senator Abboud and Senator Landis so I could get up here and say, let's vote for the easy and the best amendment which is the Senator Abboud amendment. I can't do it because I made a compromise and I'm going to stick with that compromise. If I get two votes on this floor, I'm going to stick with it because I made it and I made it in 1987 and, doggone it, come on. And I say that to those people back there who know darn well we had a compromise, we had a good piece of legislation and they're sitting there looking out there, no, we didn't. Yes, you did, and you know you did. And I'm going to stick with it until the end. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schmit, did you wish to talk to the Abboud amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I really don't want to speak to it, but let's see Abboud's amendment, Ashford just talked, spoken, Baack's in