

July 19, 1991

LB 6  
LR 1

state in the nation. Granted, 775 has been incredibly successful. I can recall the recent census figures that came out again, the final tally on July 15th that showed Nebraska population holding its own in comparison to across the river in Iowa that had a substantial reduction in the amount of people living in their state and I think that was a testament to the legislation we enacted here a number of years ago. The battles that our state has with other states over attracting industry and, in turn, when we have industry and business, in keeping the young people that graduate from our high schools and colleges in our state so that they can have jobs in the state will be a never-ending cycle of new and innovative methods in legislation to attract industry into the state. They may come in the form of increasing the money that goes to education. They may under the form of reducing property taxes so people don't have to pay as much and maybe changing the burden that is placed upon our citizens for supporting a number of these services. They're all new and innovative ideas and some work and some don't. I think 775 has shown the test of time. It has been successful and I don't see any reason, at this time, to change. I oppose the amendment. If this is attached to LB 6, I will oppose that bill, and if LB 6 is enacted, I will oppose LR 1. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I am...I voted to bring this bill back for debate because I think it's an extremely crucial issue and one that I think kind of pinpoints part of the problem with why we're here now in the first place, and that is the kinds of decisions that we make concerning LB 775 are global, for our state at least, global issues because if we intrude upon the tax credits of LB 775, what impact is that going to have on the general economy of the State of Nebraska? That's the issue. That's an issue that we're not...we're not really debating here today, or I haven't heard anything about it. All I've heard about is whether Mike Harper runs Nebraska, Senator Chambers' consistent argument about how he runs Nebraska and I'm getting tired of it. But then the other argument I'm hearing is...has to do with how great 775 has been and I don't think anybody particularly argues that. It has been a tremendous incentive for our state. But, again, as I said, five days ago the problem with this session is that we're making tax policy or trying to make tax policy which is going to have a significant impact on our state. Nobody is listening to the debate. We're just chattering along with