

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I hope the senators will understand that I'm very serious in bringing this bill. It addresses a very serious problem. The very first time that the bill was brought, about three years ago, there were representatives of the cities, I think Norfolk's Chamber of Commerce may have even written some support for the bill, because they were experiencing the problems caused by the practices of these companies. It is surprising to me, but maybe not really so, that the administrators of the City of Omaha, the Mayor, city council members, would not be supporting actively a bill of this kind because of the problems that are being created right now in communities in Omana. Senator Matzke is a lawyer. He knows that laws are not going to be interpreted in a way to produce a absurd result. He stated various types of afflictions and health hazards that will be associated with a job. Since he has no knowledge of the meat packing industry, he is not in a position, not only 'o talk about the problems of a worker, he hasn't even investigated the situation enough to know how serious the problems are in these communities where these companies have come. There is a dispute in an area in Madison County based on a man wanting to provide living facilities for these workers, and a few weeks ago, anyway, he was not going to be allowed to open this place, and he and others said it was racism that was driving that opinion because the ones who would be living there were Mexicans. They were not white people, and there were white people opposed to it. There were people with establishments in Norfolk who felt they were harassed by the police because they opened their doors to these workers. And there were white people who were offended by it, and problems resulted. And one of the proprietors told me he had to keep a shotgun in his place because of problems that people wanted to create due to the fact that they didn't want him serving these people. So many of the problems that black people face in the South with the overt racism, where you can't drink out of this fountain, you cannot obtain service in this public establishment, are being faced by these people. Senator Matzke knows nothing about that so it is not that serious a problem in his opinion. But some of the rest of you do not have to put your hand in the fire and be burned to realize that fire is hot and dangerous. And those who build fires have to be held accountable for the damage that is caused by the work that they