

February 10, 1995 LB 369

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. We have some guests with us this after...or this morning under the south balcony, guests of Senator Witek of Omaha, Tim and Judy Lutz, and their children, Heather, Erin, and Thomas. Would you please rise and be welcomed by your Legislature. We also have with us guests of Senator Schmitt, Wilma and Raulo Damian from Lincoln, a sister and brother-in-law. They are under the south balcony. Would you please be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you for joining us. Next, Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Senator Kristensen, members of the body, I guess I just want to explain a little bit on my no vote on this program. I guess I think it is enough to go ahead and be paying for a retirement program for all of these individuals, and they are very, very good retirement programs that we are giving to the employees of the state. I think if there is a problem with those employees understanding what is in these retirement programs that we could hold or these groups could hold after-work programs or Saturday programs and not have to have employers be paying for those individuals to take a day off work to go attend to find out what retirement benefits we are giving individuals, or even maybe read some of the products of the people who are handling our retirement programs. It just didn't make sense to me to incur more cost having...hiring people to have these programs for individuals and then telling everybody who wants to go that we will give them a day off paid and so that they can understand their retirement program. I understand that they are complicated to some degree and I understand that they are being asked to make some decisions on some of these programs and to what they will be involved in specifically, but I still don't see where we can jump then to saying, okay, well, we should pay for everybody to have a day off work so they can go find out what their retirement program is all about. And that's simply one of the reasons why I disagreed with the bill and voted no for it. I understand that that's a practice that is already occurring. I do not agree with some of the practices that are already occurring within the retirement systems here in the state. To me, I guess I will just lay it on the line, to me a lot of these things could be being done...in private areas, most of the people I know in the private sector, they go ahead and they find out about retirement programs on their own. They decide where to make their investments on their own. They make those investments on their own. So I'm more of that type of minded person that sees that individuals should maybe take some of these responsibilities on themselves and kind of look...look