

February 23, 1995 LB 828

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Hall, I hope you understand why I am opposed to the amendment. Extending it to the 15 years really, but I would be against even the five years, but I thought of something and it might go a long way to solve two problems and kill several birds with the same stone. We have a lot of people who are unemployed in Nebraska despite the boast that companies cannot find workers. We have many people in minimum wage jobs, some working in restaurants where they make less than minimum wage, so in line with what is being attempted with these Micron bills, especially number 828, we could get the engineering college at UNL to put its best minds to work and find a way to generate some power and put unemployed people to work. What we should do is build a huge treadmill and have all these unemployed poor people run on that treadmill as fast as they can for minimum wage and generate electric power which can be sold at a bargain to Micron and all these others and then if they're willing to work overtime without being paid time and a half, any surplus power generated can be funneled off to old people who are poor, to less than old people who are poor, to the disabled who cannot provide for their needs and have to determine whether they will eat or have heat, and I'm sure that would be innovative. I haven't heard of that being done by any other state. And I do believe that because poor people often don't get proper nutrition, they might die from heart attacks so we reduce their population in that regard. We wouldn't give them any health care or medical benefits and this is just an upscale or updated or high-tech version of what Jonathan Swift recommended in his tract called A Modest Proposal where the better classes were tired of having to pay to subsidize all these poor ragamuffin children running around and his proposal was that they should provide food for the wealthy. He talked about how you could boil them, you could roast them, you could prepare them in snish kebobs, you could do all manner of things and by being able to get little bitty children, they'd be more tender than lamb chops and he went on and on and people were outraged that he would suggest such a thing but other people were moved by it to try to make a change in how poor people, especially children, were dealt with. These bills offer an opportunity to analyze and evaluate the moral standards of this state and this society. People in this Legislature, some of them, like to talk about morality when they're on the campaign trail because it's in a