

April 5, 1995

LB 425, 830

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem. He is not on the floor, Senator.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay. Well, the reason I punched my light again was to apologize to Senator Withem if he took personal affront at my position on LB 830. And since he's not here, I guess I can't do that. But I would also share with you that there are very few things on the floor of the Legislature that ever punch my hot button and one of those is when the power of government is used to convert private property to any other use than public use. And I will not apologize for that position, whether it's someone's baseball card, someone's house or someone's farmland. And I do not oppose industrial development purchases of land in rural areas that are done on a willing buyer-willing seller basis, only under the provisions that are made possible although haven't been used in LB 830. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Madam President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment. It seems to me where we're hearing good argument from both sides, it seems to me we've heard it all before. We would all love to be purist because it sounds more noble than being realist. We would all love to turn back the clock and not have to compete in a marketplace which is, in fact, a competition in which you must sell yourself for the good of all the people. I am not in the least embarrassed or ashamed that we tried and we failed with regard to Micron because I believe it is far better to have tried and failed than never have...to have done anything. I am proud that Nebraska has been listed three times in what are considered to be world class economic development competitions. I thank God for the opportunity and I, too, am weary of coming in second and third. I am motivated, in large part, when it comes to economic development by what I will respectfully suggest has been a failure of leadership in Nebraska for a long period of time and many here are wiser and know more about our history than I do, but there are a few inescapable facts which I only hear obliquely, occasionally and dispassionately referred to on the floor of this body. We're here to lead and the problem that we confront is that for more than 50 years this state has had no real growth. We are a million six people plus