

April 4, 1996

LB 1368, 1373
LR 336

good, the fact of the matter is that we ought not utilize a vehicle which recognizes the desirability of significant salaries to quiet something or still something which is working for us. In addition, let's recall that we've already made the policy decision that we are going to do some analyses. It isn't like 775 after Senator Wesely and others here at that time voted for it and adopted it. It isn't like LB 775 that's never been looked at again. It was, what, 40 modifications the following session, and it may be appropriate that we have additional ones, but we have already this session said that we're going to do LR 336. We are going to look at the Warn...we're going to do the Warner interim study. We are going to do the cost/benefit analysis proposed by Senator Warner in LB 1373. We've made two policy decisions to examine these issues. Let's not on, please, on Select File, when we are admittedly targeting one of the premier employers in the state of Nebraska for expansion in the state of Nebraska, an employer that may well be able to bring here to our people 1,600 jobs at an average annual salary of \$50,000 per year, let's...let's try and keep our eye, I urge you, on the bouncing ball. And let's not, on Select File, quiet the machine that's creating tens of thousands of jobs that move people from our minimum wage, whatever you think of it, to the 20,000 dollar level required by 1368, and, particularly, let's not do that at a time when the employer that we target, the employer that we target for expansion in this state ranks in the highest average annual compensation to its employees of any group classified under LB 775. It's the railroads and utilities that are averaging \$23 per hour and paying \$48,000 per year average to their employees under LB 775 that we have specifically targeted here today with 1368, and I urge the defeat of the Wesely amendment and the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I appreciate Senator Brashear's arguments. I disagree. This is the moment and the time to raise some of these concerns. I do applaud, again, the fact that he included in his bill the 20,000 dollar figure on income, and that's exactly the figure I am utilizing to suggest we ought to apply it across the board. He talks about the average salary under 775 is 22,000 and 39,000 jobs created, and the economic engine that did that, and, again, I suggest we give far too much credit to these tax breaks for