

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 22, 1999 LB 149

We had a ballot issue that created quality education a paramount, paramount importance in this state, and the people of Nebraska said, while education is very important to us and our children are very important to us, education is not the only and paramount responsibility of this state. What they were telling us is that there are other things that are important: food, shelter, health, farms, economy. All people in Nebraska are important, not just children. And I certainly stand here as a mother who has six children and knows what sacrifice is like for children, but I can tell you that we have a responsibility to all of Nebraska and we need to remember that the people, as Senator Schellpeper told us so carefully this morning, the people have spoken on the ballot and they said no. And so I would urge you to think carefully as we vote this issue, recognizing the fact that there are important things in this bill that we can, as a body, carefully, carefully look at and deal with this session and correct, but we need to be very careful that we are not creating a monster that we will regret. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Further discussion on the override motion. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you and I won't take my five minutes, but I may have a hard time when I get back to that "C-store" defending myself that I'm agreeing with Senator Chambers, 'cause that's not often the case that they think in western Nebraska, but in this case I certainly do agree with him a hundred percent. We are letting control of the appropriation, the budget process, get away from us. And it was also brought up out at our store that would I go ahead and sign a contract with our employees to say, yeah, we'll give you \$8 an hour July 1st and we're going to build on and we're going to do this, knowing full well that in our area out there, the economy, our accounts receivable are going up? It's a sure sign of things happening that are not good. I can demonstrate that with printouts. The banks out in our area I know for a fact are increasing their loan loss reserves and so on. This isn't going to be the end of this 149. I agree with Senator Chambers. We're going upstream in a leaky boat with no paddles here to try and sustain the veto, but I need to be on record of saying, folks, this isn't going to work long term. We're going to be back here in more