

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

May 13, 1999

LB 605

Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I'll try to be unemotional about giving away money. The notion that somehow a business or an industry can't survive in the long term without General Funds or without special incentives from producers is contrary to anybody's notion of economics and what is beneficial. I can't understand it. Senator Vrtiska suggests that we should stay the course. I wonder what the course is? Is the course these kinds of incentives, these kinds of efforts for the long term? That was never the deal. The deal was that we were to develop an industry in the state of Nebraska, in effect, give it some start-up money, and then it was going to be profitable on its own, and it was going to start paying us back. As I indicated, when we had the hearing in front of the Revenue Committee, I asked, I did ask, I said, when are you going to be able to exist without subsidies? Don't know. So, Senator Vrtiska, what course are we on? Is it a treadmill? Or are we finally going to be able to stop; and shouldn't we stop because we agreed to stop? We have agreed to stop, in fact we've agreed to stop, and now we're being asked to continue to stay on the treadmill. And I suspect when the end comes a little bit closer again, we'll be asked to be on the treadmill again. I don't know whether my poor old heart can stand that kind of a stress test or whether I'll be here when we get around to the next round of being on the treadmill. But it sure looks to me like we're on one, and I hope I can stand the stress, and I hope the people that I represent can stand the stress because we're sure on one, and we're sure giving away money.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. The question is the adoption of AM1628 to LB 605. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Have you voted? Please record.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 19 nays on the amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is not agreed to.

CLERK: Senator Raikes, AM1630. (Legislative Journal page 1979.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open