

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

February 16, 2000 LB 1018

want to get into the record, and then a vote can be taken on whether or not to advance the bill. I am very uncomfortable with what this bill is attempting to do. Even though it's crystal clear to me that the car dealers are worried about competition of a direct nature from manufacturers, on other bills which I thought were consumer oriented, people who identified themselves as fiscal conservatives, who don't want government getting too involved deeply in the management of business activity, have been strangely silent on this bill. There are certain things being dictated with regard to how a business should be operated which probably would be better left to the existing contract law. And I don't think that because things are happening in other states that necessarily is a reason for the same thing to happen in this state. We have been told that the proliferation of activities through the Internet, things of a commercial nature, have put the motor vehicle dealers in a panic. They got into a business activity which now is riskier than it was at the time they entered it, so they want the Legislature to build a wall of protection around them so that the only source from which competition could come is prohibited by Nebraska law from taking place. We are not talking about a situation where General Motors is going to buy out Chrysler and Ford and all the ones who sell Hondas and these other types of cars, so that you have one manufacturer who controls the distribution and sale of all motor vehicles, of every type, variety, style, model, line or whatever. That is not what's happening. You would still have the big three competing for the consumer's dollar. What we have here is a narrower interest. We have here a group or class of entrepreneurs who say, we want to stay in this business and no matter what kind of progress is made technologically, no matter what kind of improvements, if you want to call them that, are made in the methodology for selling products, we want to stay in this time warp right here in Nebraska and not allow any changes to come in; we want the manufacturer to be compelled to deliver his or her products to us; we want to be able to be the only ones to sell those products; the manufacturer cannot sell those products in this state except through one of us. If the syndicate did that, the Mafia, la cosa nostra, they would be calling in the federal government and say you got extortion going on here, you've got a protection racket, you're freezing everybody out and saying you've got to deal only with the mob.