

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

March 8, 2000

LB 1004

mean we should not address it at all.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. And you do have one more time. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to be clear about the nuance to which I was speaking. There was a article, a editorial that was distributed regarding this bill. It says: Take down the welcome sign for drunk drivers. And then the second sentence is: They can move here and get a fresh slate." Now they are referring to chronic drunken drivers. Now the reason my concern is...is raised on this particular bill is let me illustrate an example for you. And I'm half Polish. My uncle's name was Gregory Wegenka. He is driving home from the Polish home in Papillion, Nebraska, and let's say he gets pulled over for drunk driving. Now let's say another gentleman is driving somewhere else from a guacamaia (phonetic) in South Omaha. His name, we'll just, we'll make one up, Javier Ramirez (phonetic). Now you have the two different instances, two different drunk drivers, now which one would you bet is someone that just moved to this state? One, perhaps, has Nebraska plates and has "Go Big Red" on it and, you know, maybe a Johnny Rodgers autograph on the back window, who knows. The other one perhaps has maybe a newer looking Nebraska plate with some bumper sticker where they are proud that they from Guadalajara or something, or their state from Mexico where their roots are. Which one do you think might be newer to the state? I think it's a matter of record on the immigration that's coming into the state so my concern is that this bill would be used, now we'll do a background check on the second instance but not the first one. Why would we? He looks more white than we do. Okay, he looks like a Nebraskan. This other person, this looks like someone who moved into our state, perhaps their English isn't very good, really looks like someone who moved into our state. So I'm not accusing a specific officer or department or instance, what I am saying is that on the face because of this bill says we're going to check into people moving into the state, that we want to be very careful because there is a large majority of one group that's moving into our state, the Latino community. Therefore, I raise the concern that if we're going to do these background checks, if we're going to go back to the records, to look for all of them. If catching drunk drivers who