

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

March 23, 2000 LB 936

Alma, Nebraska, so I know exactly of what you're speaking, and some of these towns are having a very, very, very difficult time. We've talked on this floor before, Senator Bruning had a bill about brain drain to other states in another year. I think we have to be worried about brain drain in some of these rural counties where the youth are leaving because they have no job. So I like the concept, Senator Matzke. I think it has merit, and I will continue to support it. I think there's some...there are some intangible benefits. I think the Governor mentioned them in a news article the other day. There are intangible benefits that are very hard to measure. You can't measure everything in dollars and cents. I suppose my one area of concern in the bill, and it's the same area that Senator Chambers has been looking at, and that's the whole area of wages, and I have to go back and look at the bill because I'm not really sure how the wages are articulated in this bill. As I'm looking over it, it looks like the wages could vary from region to region, and I would...I guess I would ask Senator Matzke to explain a little bit more when he has the mike again about how the wages are constructed under this bill. I do want people paid a living wage, and I don't think a living wage is always the same thing in western Nebraska or middle Nebraska as it is in eastern Nebraska, but that's arguable too, and you can get into some real parochialism when you make that argument. So I would just like to have us look very, very hard at this wage issue and see if...if we really understand what's in here, and if there's anything else we can do to improve the bill. So for now I will listen. I'll continue to support the bill, and I would ask you all to look at that aspect of it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Raikes on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. I would like to continue on just a little bit in the discussion of the work of the Fiscal Office and emphasize again that I think rural development, economic development is a very important issue, and that my concern is that we have a program that is going to work well. And I think one of the things that we can gain from the models we have and the expertise we've developed is an approach that will lead us toward deciding when a program is good enough to go ahead with or that it is not, and