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March 23, 2000 LB 936

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, small businesses in rural Nebraska are failing now. Why are they failing? They don't have customers. This bill is not going to produce customers. In economics, one of the first principles is that you don't send good money after bad. It's not that there are not small businesses in rural Nebraska. They cannot make it. Articles appear regularly about some business on main street going under. It cannot make it. I'd tell Senator Stuhr, Senator Stuhr, this bill is not going to grow customers. This is not like going out into a place under a tree and growing mushrooms. Customers are not going to sprout up. Who are the people who will patronize these businesses? Where are they? Are people from the cities going to be brought back to the rural areas to patronize these little companies, these little businesses? No. Why are the little businesses that are in rural Nebraska failing now? Because the people are leaving that area and coming to the cities. So why, having left that area to come to the city, are they going to leave a job in the city to come work at a lower wage in the rural area? And why would somebody in the rural area expect somebody to start a business when there are going to be no customers? You sit around and you look at all of your stock and then the business goes belly up and the people in the urban areas, who have subsidized those activities, if some of these businesses do happen to get approved, they're not going to succeed, I guarantee that. And we can get the transcript from March 23rd on LB 936 where I'm guaranteeing you that businesses under this bill, if there are any that start up, are going to fail, subsidized the whole time by urban taxpayers. This is a part of what we were told at the beginning this session is going to happen. There will be a shift in terms of who is going to pay increasingly more taxes and that shift will be on to the urban taxpayers. And if their representatives agree that this is the thing to do they'll support this bill, but I agree with Senator Raikes and I've said it every way that I know how. Like Nat "King" Cole said, although it's been said many times, many ways, it boils down in his song to Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad. That's it. I've found more ways I think to say this is not going to work than that, but nobody pays attention. This is a political bill, that's all. It's a sham from beginning to end.