

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

April 3, 2000

LB 925

support this amendment and encourage you to support it, and I do not think that it will jeopardize the underlying bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Brown, followed by Schimek and Chambers. Senator Brown. Senator Brown waives off. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President (sic), members of the body, I think I'm going to support this amendment. I think it's an excellent idea. I think it does save money in the long run. But I have one little nigging concern at the back of my mind, and I mentioned this to Senator Hilgert a minute ago, and that is, there are a lot of people out there who are really struggling to make ends meet and they don't have very large incomes and they have big day-care bills and they would like nothing better than to stay home with their children and they...they can't afford to do that. And how do I, as a public policy maker, respond to those people who come back to me and say, oh, you know, why don't you do something for us. And I know we have tax credits for child care and that certainly would impact on low-income people to a certain degree, but, Senator Hilgert, how do I respond to those constituents?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Hilgert, will you yield for an answer...reply?

SENATOR HILGERT: I certainly would. Thank you, Senator Schimek. I would respond by, first of all, recognizing a frustration a lot of working people have in this state. They can't afford the child care. They can't afford the rising costs of gas. They can't afford a lot of things. Yes, we have a cutoff line here where some would benefit and some would not. I would submit to you we have that as well on Pell grants, we have that on food stamps, we have that on homestead exemption. The policy of the state has cutoffs for those who benefit and those who don't. We've had economic and rural development issues that aren't going to benefit my county. What are you doing for the 750 individuals at the Vickers plant that got laid off, I might be asked. I wish I could tell them, but I'm not going to wage war on the rural poor and those who are in need and in financial crisis in rural Nebraska because it may not help directly the