

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

February 12, 2003 LR 2

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Brown

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in a follow-up to what Senator Smith said, I think that in some respects Senator Redfield, for me, made clear why I'm going to support this bill, because if we have all these facilities in Omaha that, because of the costs associated, because of the nature and because of the implications of the tax with limitations on the income as it is right now, they tend to go into the hands of nonprofit organizations or other places where they're off the tax rolls. With this legislation, we would have the opportunity to craft something that would allow them to remain both historical and in the tax-paying public domain. Then there is the issue that is more about what our future is going to look like if we aren't doing things right now to preserve our past. I heard a futurist talk about, as we become more global, the only thing that we're going to have to sell from the standpoint of tourism is something that's uniquely cultural. Buildings are a part of our art and they are uniquely cultural, and that is the piece that we are going to be able to use to attract people to Nebraska. When you can go to a McDonald's in Paris, it's not going to be about whether you can get something, an inexpensive meal, that's going to determine where you go. It's going to be that there's something more in Paris than McDonald's. And we want to hold onto those things in our state that give us...give everybody an idea of what our heritage has been, and our buildings are a part of that and I believe that we have to hold onto them. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Pederson. Senator Pederson, your light is the only one on. You may speak or you may close, whatever you choose to do.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'd like to use this as my closing then.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may do so.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: First of all, I want to thank so many of you that have spoken in favor of this. I think it shows that there is a feeling within our state, because you represent our state, a feeling that our history is important and that we do