

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

February 18, 2003 LB 52

orientation, you can keep them out of your house, you can keep them off your property, so long as your property is not open to the public at large, but there might be a question as to whether somebody discriminated against in a mall because of sexual orientation would have recourse to the law. But, Senator Vrtiska, Senator Connealy, Senator Synowiecki, Senator Louden, when it comes to discriminating in the realm of employment against people because of their sexual orientation, the state should interpose a barrier and say to people, of that turn of mind, this far may you come but no farther. It should not be difficult for us, who sit here day after day discussing legislation, passing laws, to find it within us to protect a segment of our population which is discriminated against. How appropriate is it for me to try to amend this bill or any other bill by attaching this that I will call the Chambers amendment prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation? It is as appropriate for me to do this as it is for anybody to offer an amendment to any bill. The amendment may not be adopted, and mine probably will not be, but I have no way of knowing that for sure. But at any rate, every word that I say on this subject is part of an overall intent of mine, plan of mine, tactic of mine to hammer and hammer until something gives, and I cannot be the thing that gives. It has been said, Senator Friend, it has been said that when the only tool a person is given is a hammer everything looks like a nail. So therefore, being given a hammer, I must ply it vigorously, and I didn't mean to take you from your intellectual endeavor so carry on, or, as they say in the army, as you were. It would be so easy to put this bill in place. It becomes an accomplished fact and society then incorporates it into society's experience and society just keeps on stepping. It has been made into something much bigger than it needs to. It is not going to tear down society. Not one federal agency or department in the executive branch of the U.S. government has come apart at the seams because of the President's executive order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. No city that has adopted such an ordinance has experienced any problems or any difficulty; no county, and there are counties far more progressive than anything you'll find in Nebraska which have adopted such a resolution and it has not harmed their county in any way. Other states, by legislation, have done what I am attempting to do. They have