

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

March 18, 2003 LB 608

troubled that we're just going to throw this baby out with the bathwater. And even though I accept that it is very probably not the way that we want to go, what are we looking at in terms of an alternative? Which gets me back to what I believe is the bottom-line discussion here and what we've got to think about as we are having this discussion, and that is, do we believe that incentives create economic activity? Senator Landis said these aren't really jobs; that we're just moving the hours around. Well, I look at what has happened over the last ten years, and say, Nebraska had the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. Now, we can't attribute all of it to LB 775 and to economic development incentives, but I think that we have to attribute some of it. So obviously, somewhere between what Senator Bourne said, that there are 72,000 jobs created, and what Senator Landis said, that it was just moving hours around, is the truth, that we have had economic activity that we would not have had otherwise. The other thing that I look at is that for at least the time of the nineties, we had growth in this state of between 6 and 7 percent a year. That is significant--6 and 7 percent growth a year for a decade period. Now you'll say, well, look at where we are right now. Isn't it amazing that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...we are in a situation economically that doesn't look very good, when the NASDAQ has lost 80 percent of its value, and we have been attacked by terrorists, and our economy has slowed down enormously. But where would the state of Nebraska be had we not created the growth that we saw in the nineties? And I want to talk a little bit right now about a particular, very real example of that growth, because I think one of the most significant things about LB 775 is that it is not about Omaha. It is about...it's probably done more in smaller communities than it even has done in Omaha. Probably the community that has benefited the most from LB 775 is DeWitt,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: ...a very small community. But there is a company...