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March 18, 2003      LB 608

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to yield my time to Senator Brashear.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Thank you, Senator Kremer. I appreciate it. Senator Hartnett, if I've said everything that's happened in this state has happened because of LB 775, I want you to know I stand corrected. You're right. Everything hasn't happened by reason of LB 775, but almost everything or a lot of things have, okay? I'd like to...you've indulged me. I appreciate that. I want to share some thoughts as to why I don't think this is the time when we want to be what I call noncompetitive; why we want to be applicant specific; why we want to risk the dissemination of information that...or cause companies to fear that we might be loose with information that would be damaging. Look back with me briefly. I'm going to try and do this in five minutes. Nineteen eighty-seven, 13 straight years of negative net migration, the largest outflux of people in over 20 years and 0 growth in state revenue. Two thousand and three, net migration turned negative in 2000 for the first time since 1990. The trend continues in 2001 and 2002. Zero growth in state revenue for the first time since 1985, in the 1985-86 biennium. Nineteen eighty-seven, we made it easier for businesses to come to Nebraska and to grow in Nebraska. Two thousand and three, we want to make it harder? Want to make it more difficult? Want to make it data specific; have people be nervous about our environment? I'm not opposed to change. You'll see in a subsequent amendment I'm...what I'm doing is trying to eliminate the portion with regard to the Fiscal Office, adopt the committee's enhanced disclosure and add additional disclosure, which the committee isn't even requiring with regard to wage and benefits and that sort of thing, but maintain it within our...the executive branch and within the Department of Revenue. LB 608, as proposed by the Revenue Committee, simply doesn't provide a normal marketplace balance for this kind of issue. What it basically boils down to is more accounting, more regulation, more bureaucracy, and I think the opportunity to