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FLOOR DEBATE

March 20, 2003      LB 608

went from 49 to 75 million; a 35 percent increase in that. A 30 percent increase in fresh ham bone line. The bottom line is, we added 100 new jobs. We do a lot more business. We reduced turnover from 58 percent...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: ...in 1999, to 20 percent in 2002, in 2003 we're only 8 percent. Turnover numbers are important. What does that mean? That talks about quality of work life for our employees. So Farmland is doing a few things right. We are more profitable. We are the key to the Chapter 11 turnaround, the Crete plant is. In addition, we only have 8 percent of our people leaving their jobs, and we added 100 new jobs. So our wages now, we wage from...go from \$9.70 base to \$11.80 base. And we pay our employees \$11.80 to \$15.15 per hour. That's not including our benefits package, which is 38 percent. So we are being good stewards. I do agree with Senator Bromm in that if you're not being a good steward of what you're getting, you ought to be (inaudible). And I would like to turn the remainder of my time over to Senator Bromm.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You have two seconds, Senator Bromm.  
(Laughter)

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Combs. (Laughter)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. I'm sorry. We are on the Bromm amendment to the third component of the divided committee amendments to LB 608. Senator Brashear, followed by Senators Bourne, Baker, Cunningham, Kremer, Brown, and others. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, thank you. Members of the body, that was a good moment. Thank you, Senator Combs. As I thought about this overnight, I decided I was going to rise, and the first thing I wanted to do was join Senator Landis in his comments yesterday, and Senator Bourne, with the idea that if anybody is violating the law in the state of Nebraska, I hope and believe it is our agreed policy that they ought to be prosecuted. I hope that isn't just something we save for some